

Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes Oct 19, 2020 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Paul Avery, Chris Barnes, Nikolay Bliznyuk, Hai-Ping Cheng, Wu Hsuan Lo Ciganic, Susmita Datta, Erik Deumens, Aria Eshraghi, Richard Hennig, Guillaume Labilloy, Damon Lamb, George Michailidis, Rafa Munoz-Carpena, Parisa Rashidi, Alberto Riva, Plato Smith, Douglas Spearot, Jack Stenner, Bruce Vogel, Laurie Taylor

Updates

- Deliveries of components has started.
 - o HiPerGator 3.0 phase 1 will arrive in the next few weeks.
 - o HiPerGator AI racks will arrive starting Thanksgiving and in December.
 - o Both systems will be available for early user access sometime in January 2021.
- Work on upgrading the electrical power and cooling in the data center is progressing.
- Training materials will be developed together with NVIDIUA as part of the Deep Learning Institute (DLI).
- There are 7 open positions in RC; the last posting closed on October 9. We are interviewing candidates. There is a good number of promising applicants in the pool.
- Dr. Norton has created the AI Research Work Group with representatives from every college. There is a similar work group for curriculum development reporting to Associate Provost Dr. David Reed.
 - o The WG selected the two AI institute proposals that were allowed to go forward to NSF.
 - o Now it is writing a white paper outlining the research thrusts UF should pursue with maximal impact.
 - o Next it will create a list of experts anyone are UF can turn to for advice on using and applying AI. This list will be published on the AI gateway website <https://ai.ufl.edu>
- UF and the Board of Governors announced Wed Oct 14 to all provosts and VPs for Research of universities in Florida that HiPerGator AI will be available for teaching and research to all faculty under the same conditions as hold for UF faculty. The support will be provided through SSERCA staff, who will be briefed Wed 21.
- UF is working with NSF to explore how access can be given to the national academic community.
- The Office of Research's Catalyst seed grant solicitation received 132 applications. Only 16 can be funded.
 - o Researchers who are given an award are expected to report on their work

Next meeting will be on November 23, 2020 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. The meeting will be Zoom only. An invitation will be sent.