Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes September 19, 2022 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Paul Avery, Chris Barnes, Nikolay Bliznyuk, Erik Deumens, Tajuana Chisholm, Gogce Crynen, Richard Hennig, Gail Keenan, Guillaume Labilloy, Lauren McIntyre, Rafa Munoz-Carpena, Alberto Riva, Massoud Rouhizadeh, Plato Smith, Jack Stenner, Laurie Taylor, Bruce Vogel

Updates

- **New chair of RCAC**
  - After many years of service, Pul Avery is stepping down as chair. Thank You, Paul!
  - Richard Hennig will serve as chair for the next 2 years. Congratulations, Richard!
- **Sustainability**
  - UF has developed a successful sustainability model for HiPerGator, which provided the majority of the funding for HiPerGaator 3.0.
  - The donation of HiPerGator AI does not fit into that model. The system is in it second year. The expected life is 5 years, but likely can be 6 or 7 years because of the prime conditions of power and cooling in the UF data center.
  - That system is already making a major impact on the reputation of UF and its ability to deliver on the promise of AI University and new groundbreaking research results.
  - UF is working on a partnership to provide funding for replacing that system after 5 years.
- **HITRUST certification of HiPerGator**
  - Frazier & Deeter has completed a big chunk of the pre-assessment work. A report with initial findings for remediation by RC has been provided Friday Sep. 16.
  - There are a few issues that RC identified with F&D as hard to implement and sometime irrelevant for a research system (as opposed to a typical clinical database server). F&D and RC will have a discussion with the HITRUST Alliance about these and how they can be handled or replaced correctly and meaningfully.
- **UFIT Research Computing staff changes**
  - RC has five open positions.
  - Friday Sep 16, we interviewed three promising candidates for three research support engineers. Hopefully, these will lead to three hires.

Discussion

- Richard Hennig asked whether grant funds can contribute to the budget for sustaining HiPerGator 3 and HiPerGator AI. A big fraction of the funding comes from agencies (NSF, NIH, DOE, DOD, NASA USDA, etc) to the UF faculty, who then buy HiPerGtor allocations and services. UF has had direct grants for infrastructure, for example to fund network switches to bring 100 Gbps connection to FLR. Such

proposals are possible, but they bring special complexities and are not very reliable, since proposals are not all funded.
- Massoud Rouhizadeh points out that the service offerings of HiPerGator are very flexible, which makes it easy to meet the requirements and restrictions that funding agencies may have on budgeting and purchases with grant funds.

Next meeting will be on October 24, 2022 from 1:30 – 2:20 pm. Note the time change to 1:30 pm. The meeting will be Zoom only.