Research Computing Advisory Committee
Minutes Mar 3, 2025 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Nikolay Bliznyuk, Chris Barnes, Clint Collins, Gogce Crynen, Susmita Datta, Erik Deumens, Gail Keenan, Rafa Munoz-Carpena, Kuttichantran Subramaniam

Updates
- **UFIT Research Computing staff**
    o One AI support engineer vacancy is in the interview stage.
- **HiPerGator 4th Generation refresh**
    o 60 nodes of the DGX A100 have been removed to make space for the first SU (scalable unit) of the new DGX B200 system.
    o To compensate for the loss of resources, classes are being taught using the NVIDIA DGX Cloud.
    o The first DGX B200 SU was delivered and has been wired up. This week the OS will be installed, and the system will be tested by NVIDIA engineers. Then the UF team will take over.

Discussion
- Rafa Munoz-Carpena commented on the value of having the RSE team. Getting the right skill and talent on a project used to be time consuming, but now talent is available from UFIT RC and they are ready immediately. Because they are part of a team, they have access to more expertise than a single software engineer would have. He concluded that this service works really well.
- Faculty have raised concerns about messages they received about not being allowed to use certain AI models. Here is a clarification of some of the misunderstandings
    o **Correct - DeepSeek R1 cannot be used for Florida State work or on Florida owned devices**. That holds for UF. A clean version is being developed called **OpenR1**. HiPerGator will run that once it becomes available.
    o **Incorrect - ChatGPT cannot be used for UF work or on UF devices**. The prohibition pertains to the public version of ChatGPT at www.chatgpt.com. UF has this policy because UF offers ChatGPT in NaviGator AI, which runs inside a secure tenant in Azure. Same holds for other paid models in Google and Amazon. Open source models run on HiPerGator and are also available.
        ▪ See https://it.ufl.edu/ai/navigator-chat/ for details on security restrictions and available models in NaviGator Chat. The full capabilities of NaviGator AI services are here https://it.ufl.edu/ai/
        ▪ The prohibition to use the public ChatGPT at www.chatgpt.com can be found by looking at the FastPath list of allowed and prohibited software at https://it.ufl.edu/security/audiences/faculty--staff/fast-path-solutions/ and type ChatGPT" into the search box. It will say that ChatGPT cannot be used but NaviGator AI offers a UF approved version of ChatGPT.

- o **Incorrect - UF versions are behind**: NaviGator AI models are updated as soon as they are available in the cloud. Thus, the paid-for models are not newer than what is available to the UF community. The open soirce models are also updated as soon as they come out.

Next meeting will be on Apr 14, 2025 from 2:00 – 2:30 pm. The meeting will be Zoom only.