

# Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes July 28, 2025 (taken by Erik Deumens)

**Present:** Nikolay Bliznyuk, Chris Barnes, Nikolay Bliznyuk, Clint Collins, Gogce Crynen, Erik Deumens, Richard Hennig, Gail Keenan, Damon Lamb, Rafa Munoz-Carpena, Massoud Rouhizadeh

## Updates

### - HiPerGator 4<sup>th</sup> Generation refresh update

- The project is on time so far. Production is expected to start in September.
- The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for October 15.
- The Lenovo system with 19,000 CPU cores and 600 L4 GPUs is early-0user-mode in production since July.
  - There are some random performance problems. We are working with Lenovo to address them.
- The old HiPerGator 2.0 has been dismantled and returned to the vendor for credit.
- The new Blue storage system has arrived and is being configured by DDN engineers.
  - After testing and validation, the process of moving data from the old system to the new system will be done in a rolling fashion, moving user groups one at a time negotiated with the faculty, not during a planned shutdown of unpredictable duration.
- The benchmarks work will start this week or next. The newsletter will give details.

## Discussion

- Several issues were noted as part of the early user operation of the new systems. These are examples of known issues under investigation.
  - Rafa Munoz-Carpena sees random writing and reading with Blue errors in his code. He has reported this, but says he has not gotten an answer from RC.
  - Damon Lamb reports that some jobs run randomly 100x slower.
  - Massoud Rouhizadeh reports random slow startup/loading of PyTorch on B200 GPUs.
- Gogce Crynen says that the tool to check allocation still reports that the burst factor is 9x, not 4x as announced earlier.
- How will existing investments work on the new system with new prices?
  - Existing investments will be honored to allow use of the new system at no extra cost.
  - The new GPU price will be \$2,800 for 5 years for hardware investments, and pro-rated for shorter periods with 10% upcharge for service investments.
- After students take a class, many want to continue working on HiPerGator. What can they do if their faculty sponsor does not have an investment?
  - Many colleges and departments make investments for exactly such cases to allow faculty and students to use HiPerGator for smaller projects that do not justify a yearlong or even monthslong investment.

Next meeting will be on Sep 8, 2025 from 2:00 – 2:30 pm. The meeting will be Zoom only.