Research Computing Advisory Committee
Minutes Sep 8, 2025 (taken by Erik Deumens)

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

Updates
- **HiPerGator 4th Generation refresh update**
  - Production started Sep 2, 2025, as planned.
  - The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for October 14.
  - The Lenovo system with 19,000 CPU cores and 600 L4 GPUs
    - The problem where the nodes randomly run 10 to 50 times slower has been identified. It is caused by power fluctuation. UF has increased the voltage supply, but we think that was not the problem. We sent a node to Lenovo for analysis so they can provide a real fix..
    - A workaround is in place: the nodes are reset when this random event occurs. The impact to users is now minimal.
  - The new Blue storage system is operational but not deployed.
    - 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 turned out great.
    - In HPL mixed precision, we run at 605.49 Pflops. HPL-MxP.org
    - We ran the MLPerf Inference benchmark organized by MLCommons.com and are the fastest of the March 2024 list. The new list comes out this week, with our submission in it.
    - We will run the MLPerf Training benchmark in early October for the submission deadline.
- **Searches**
  - We hired a new AI support engineer: Andrei Todor. Starts Sept 12.
  - We are search for two RSEs.
  - We are about to hire three regulated research support engineers: we have interviewed three outstanding candidates.
  - We are screening applicants for a research support engineer at Scripps.

Discussion
- Data on blue (and orange) is not backed up. A big operation like copying to a new storage system has the chance of data loss. Users need to be aware of that. Maybe a reminder of that is timely.
- What is the strategic role of Globus in UFIT RC? UFIT RC is a long term partner with Globus; it will be there indefinitely. There may be interest for a connector to AWS. ICBR will investigate their need.

- Is there impact on the return to office on UFIT RC operations? UFIT RC is looking for more office locations for its support and consulting staff and RSEs to be close to faculty and researchers.

Next meeting will be on Oct 20, 2025 from 2:00 – 2:30 pm. The meeting will be Zoom only.