

Research Computing Advisory Committee

Minutes Jan 29, 2024 (taken by Erik Deumens)

Present: Nikolay Bliznyuk, Chris Barnes, Gogce Crynen, Susmita Datta, Erik Deumens, Guillaume Labilloy, Gail Keenan, Damon Lamb, Rafa Munoz-Carpena, Alberto Riva, Massoud Rouhizadeh, Bruce Vogel

Updates

- **UFIT Research Computing staff**
 - o Openings for research software engineers (RSE), created by president Sasse's strategic fund, are now posted from Jan 2 through 31, 2024. We have 116 applicants in the entry level (RSE I and RSE II) and 37 in the advanced level (RSE III and RSE IV). At this time the hiring committee is sending the initial round of invitations for screening interviews.
- **"Hero runs"**
 - o HiPerGator, specifically the HiPerGator AI component, is capable of running very large and complex problems when all 1,120 GPUs are allowed to work together.
 - o The HiPerGator system is too busy with supporting research and teaching (37 courses this semester), but RC does support such "hero runs" that have the chance to make major impact in science, engineering, or scholarship.
 - o Over the holiday break, we ran a hero run that needed 1,000 GPUs for 3 days running a chemistry simulation that generated basic biomolecules.
 - o RC is now working on another hero calculation in astronomy and one in fintech.

Discussion

- UF has a reputation in the academic world that it knows how to run infrastructure for supporting AI across the curriculum and for research. In the past two months, several universities from all over the US and even one from South Africa have sent a delegation to come and learn from us.

Next meeting will be on March 4, 2024 from 2:00 – 2:30 pm. The meeting will be Zoom only.