Terms of reference for the HPC Forum at Aarhus University

Objective
All research areas from art history to cosmology are changing as a result of the opportunities that come from digitalisation and the ability to create algorithms and work on extremely large data sets. At Aarhus University, we need to be able to influence and benefit from this development.

Therefore a forum is established with a special focus – based on the university’s digitalisation strategy – on the research-related use of supercomputers and high-performance computing (HPC).

The aim is new HPC initiatives, that can attract and retain talented researchers and students at Aarhus University. HPC equipment and access to this will form the basis for the establishment of new fields of research which combine the classical subjects with modern high-performing computers. At the same time, it is essential to maintain the existing HPC facilities and enhance them as new opportunities arise and new resources are available.

Tasks
The HPC Forum has the following tasks:

1. Serve as an academic-strategic sparring partner for the Research Committee in matters concerning HPC.
2. Help to coordinate AU’s HPC initiatives internally, nationally and internationally.
3. Assess HPC-relevant proposals from the academic environments, the administration and management.
4. Process applications concerning HPC resources for DeiC.
5. Prepare recommendations for management about costs of investment (leverage of external funding) and maintenance to ensure access to HPC hardware facilities at AU for researchers at all career levels.
6. Can serve as an academic AU representative in external organisations, initiatives and activities related to HPC, following agreement with the relevant dean, and is to be kept informed by academic AU representatives without a seat on the HPC Forum.

Composition
The HPC Forum is composed as follows:
- One or two researchers from each faculty
- One representative from AU IT
The chair is to be found from among the members, and elected by the members themselves.

Other relevant employees, for example AU representatives in national forums and committees, may participate in HPC Forum meetings as required.

**Meetings**
The HPC Forum convenes at least twice a year.
Administrative support for the HPC Forum is provided by the Rector’s Office.

**Organisational anchoring**
The HPC Forum reports to the Research Committee and provides proposals and status reports as required.

*Approved at the meeting of the Committee for Research and External Cooperation held on 5 October 2018.*
*Adjusted after a meeting of the Research Committee on 22 June 2021 - approved by the senior management team on 11 August 2021.*