

Annual Report of the UCGIS Membership Committee

Martin Swobodzinski, Chair

May 20, 2017

- 1) This annual report covers the timeframe from my last report on May 15, 2016 to May 20, 2017.
- 2) There are no other individuals on the committee. The position of Vice Chair is available, as well as other members.
- 3) Membership activities during 2016-17

Incoming members:

- The Department of Geography at the University of Alabama was admitted as a new basic member during the 2016 UCGIS Symposium.
- The Center for Spatial Data Science at the University of Chicago joined as a new basic member during the 2016 Winter Council Meeting.
- The Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was readmitted at the basic membership level.
- The Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences (S4) unit at Brown University is currently awaiting to be admitted at the basic membership level pending a vote by the UCGIS Council at the 2017 symposium.

Outgoing members:

- The University of Oregon

Transitions:

- The following universities transitioned from full memberships to basic members, units indicated:
 - The University of Georgia, Department of Geography
 - Harvard University, Center for Geographic Analysis
 - West Virginia University, Department of Geography
- The Department of Geoinformatics at the University of Salzburg transitioned from an affiliate to a regular basic membership in response to the changes of the affiliate membership category.

Outreach and other activities:

- Presented membership application of the Department of Geography at the University of Alabama during the 2016 UCGIS Symposium.
- Aided in changes to UCGIS membership model regarding affiliate membership of international academic members.
- Aided in the update of the UGGIS value proposition, including talking points, that can be shared with administrators; the updated version has been posted to the UCGIS website.

4) Anticipated upcoming activities, including any particular calls for action or input by members of the Board or Delegates

- Present membership application of S4 during the 2017 UCGIS Symposium with recommendation in favor of admission.
- Continue chaperoning application for basic membership of Yale University Libraries towards vote during the 2017 Winter Council Meeting.
- Continue chaperoning application for full membership of McGill University towards vote during the 2017 Winter Council Meeting.
- Follow-up with individuals at SUNY Albany, UT Austin, and UMass Amherst based on discussions about membership in UCGIS at or around the AAG 2017.
- Update list of potential new members and follow-up with those organizations that have recently expressed interest in membership (Department of Geography, University of Delaware; Department of Geography and GIS, University of Northern Colorado; School of Earth and Sustainability, UMass Amherst; Department of Geography, University of Hawaii at Manoa).
- Maintain a shared repository of e-mail templates for common exchanges with representatives of lapsed and new member organizations (e.g., follow-ups with lapsed member organization with information on the full and basic membership options).
- Aid in refining procedures for the upgrading (i.e., from basic to full) and downgrading (i.e., from full to basic) of memberships; it might be worthwhile to suggest basic membership as a primary pathway for membership, even if the objective is full membership
- Create a list of the responsibilities of the membership chair (if such does not exist yet) as a part of the documents that govern the practices of the UCGIS.
- Discussion point:
 - In 2015/16, we contacted dozens of prospective and lapsed member institutions through “unsolicited” messages. This year we have seen the same number of completed membership applications (with a few more in the works) that came out of a smaller number of professional relationships and interactions. With that in mind, going forward, what should be the approach of choice for contacting prospective/lapsed member institutions? In which way can we best leverage our professional networks? Solicited and/or unsolicited inquiries? Top down or bottom up?