

UCGIS Board Meeting

Timberline 1 Meeting, Friday, July 1, 2005

Present: Lam (President), Usery (Past President), Wilson (President Elect)
Elmes, Tulloch, Mackay, Ahearn (Board Members)
Committee Chairs: Read (Communications), Larson (Membership), Shuler
(Policy/Legislation), DiBiase (Education)
Sanders (Executive Director), Ramasubramanian (Secretary),
Guest: Buckley (CAGIS)

1. Meeting called to order by Lam at 7.00 PM

2. Review and Revisions on Agenda:

no revisions; item 3.6) MOU with AGILE and 3.7) Internship program previously added to agenda following June 28th Board Meeting

3. Old Business

- 3.1. AutoCarto Conference 2006
- 3.2. UCGIS relationship with CAGIS
- 3.3. GIScience Society
- 3.4. UCGIS membership in GISci
- 3.5. MOU with U of Tokyo
- 3.6. MOU renewal with AGILE
- 3.7. Internship program

3.1 AutoCarto Conference 2006

Context: Scheduling the AutoCarto conference conjoined with the UCGIS Summer Assembly in 2006.

Action Steps

Buckley (ESRI) will be the CAGIS contact. She will work with Tim Nyerges (research committee chair) and Dawn Wright (research committee co-chair).

Location will be in the Pacific Northwest

Discussion focused on scheduling and implications for design of the conference program for both conferences. Another issue was the location of the conference site and concern about long travel times for international visitors.

Wilson makes a motion

UCGIS board will align with AutoCarto 2006 conference organizers and do what we can to have conjoined meetings and work collaboratively

Motion second (Mackay)

Motion passes unanimously

No abstentions

PASS

3.2 UCGIS relationship with CAGIS

Lam appointed Yuan to work with Plewe to continue the discussions about developing/strengthening the relationship between UCGIS and CAGIS

3.3 GIScience Society

Background

There are on-going informal conversations about creating a GIScience Society.

Additional groups that should be invited to discuss this issue include AAG, CAGIS, ASPRS, UCGIS, URISA, GITA

Motion proposed by Wilson

A representative from the UCGIS board will engage in a discussion with representatives from other groups to form a society of Geographic Information Professionals

Mackay second

Motion passes unanimously

No abstentions

PASS

Action Step: President nominated John Wilson to begin these conversations.

3.4 UCGIS Membership in GISci Certification Institute

Background

UCGIS invited to join GISci Institute as a member.

Discussion

Board concerned about liability issues, clarification of GISci Bylaws, and having equal status with URISA

Sanders – if we decide to go through with this, I recommend we double our coverage

Ahern – Implications for ASPRS certification?

Larson: NC and OR recommend GISci certification of geo-info professionals

Wilson – simplest way forward is to align ourselves to GISci the way URISA has

Wilson: UCGIS can help and inform and guide the certification process.

Wilson proposes a motion

The board encourages the president to explore UCGIS joining GISci as a full partner subject to the following three things being resolved

- **Clarify GISci bylaws regarding membership**
- **Clarify liability of GISCI officers assuming UCGIS joins GISci Board**
- **Specify process/mechanisms that GISci will establish to ensure that UCGIS has the same status as URISA**

Elmes second

Nay - none

Abstain - Mackay

PASS

3.5 Cooperative Agreement with U of Tokyo

Background

National Center for Spatial Information Science (NCSIS) at U of Tokyo seeks to develop an cooperative agreement with UCGIS to pursue academic exchange and research cooperation.

Discussion

We don't know enough about the Center to decide on an appropriate response:

- is the center a consortium of universities
- shouldn't U of Tokyo become a member of UCGIS

A member of the UCGIS board should talk with the lead contacts in Tokyo to learn more about the Center's mission and work before we make a decision

UCGIS does not have resources to pay for board member travel to Tokyo for this purpose

Motion proposed by Usery

- **UCGIS requests NCSIS to fund two persons (Board Members or Executive Officers) to do a site visit;**
- **UCGIS board empowers those individuals to negotiate a MOU**
- **If NCGIS agrees to fund one individual's expenses for a visit, then the President has the discretion to accept or decline**

Wilson second

Motion passes unanimously

No abstentions

PASS

3.6 MOU Renewal with AGILE

Background

AGILE and UCGIS have previously signed an MOU. This needs to be renewed.

Discussion

AGILE partnership is good for UCGIS. Resource constraints have prevented us from taking full advantage of opportunities in Europe.

Action Step

President nominates Greg Elmes to negotiate MOU renewal with AGILE (Contact: Mauro Salvemini)

3.7 Internship Proposal (Ahearn)

Background

Ahearn was asked to investigate the potential for a coordinated internship program managed by UCGIS to serve a range of federal agencies. It would be a service to UCGIS member institutions, esp. the smaller universities and colleges. It will also minimize the burden on agencies. The preliminary research is promising in that such a program looks feasible and there is some agency interest. However, it will take between 300-400 person hours to put the internship program together, get the commitment of the agencies, and launch the program.

Discussion

Board generally positive about this idea; examples of similar internship models (from U of Missouri-Rolla with USGS, University of Southern California with Southern California Council of Governments) presented.

Despite the tight financial situation of UCGIS, board members agreed that this was a good investment. Since there were no guarantees that there will be agency buy-in for the coordinated internship program (it is still an idea), it was agreed that money should be spent in increments, i.e., with an invoice being submitted for work completed. The first phase of the work should be to determine which agencies will commit to participating in the program once it is established.

Motion proposed by Wilson

We authorize the Executive Director to spend up to \$15,000 from our strategic reserves to support Ahearn and his staff to establish an internship program for UCGIS.

Usery second

Motion passed unanimously

No abstentions

PASS

4. WINTER 2006 MEETING (SHULER)

Shuler presented draft winter meeting schedule (handout), informed by discussions within the Policy and Legislation committee

Dates: Thursday 9th February and Friday 10th February 2006

Congressional Breakfast will be on Thursday

UIC-UIUC will work to get Senator Barak Obama to sponsor the Congressional breakfast (UIUC delegate is Sara McLafferty)

UCGIS Board meeting and dinner will be Wed 8th (7 PM to 9 PM)

Discussion/Decisions Needed:

1. Presentations by UCGIS members

- How many presentations?
- Single theme or different themes?
- What's the take home message?

2. Agency Briefings

- Do we want agency briefings or not?
- What is the Structure/Format for the briefings?

3. UCGIS Members Visit Agencies

- How many agencies?
- Who goes? Who decides who goes?
- What is the purpose of the agency visit?

i) Discussion about Presentations

Usery: Opening and closing sessions of the breakfast are important.
We often leave without tell congress what they want to know.

Tulloch: We have to have an "ask"

Mackay: We shouldn't be focusing on successes alone; we should also be saying that important pieces of research are not getting done because of lack of funding

Lam: Example of "ask" - we want legislation that increases funding for GIScience research

Sanders: Another example of "ask" – inject GIS into all kinds of appropriations; e.g., department of education

Wilson: We have our research briefs to hand out/circulate in advance

Wilson: Call for speakers should go out well in advance

There is general agreement on

- few focused presentations
- opening and closing statements that end with an "ask"

Board members somewhat divided on the issue of consolidating GIScience research in one place at NSF. Some feel that there are advantages in having GIS included within many programs, divisions.

ii) Discussion about Agency Briefings

Elmes: We should focus our efforts; not try to bring everybody together in an arbitrary way

Wilson: One way to manage the agency presentations is to have a common theme that the agency representative responds to "How can there be a better relationship between your agency and UCGIS?"

Agreement:

Hold an Agency Panel

Action Step

Policy/Legislation Committee in consultation with Board and Research/Education Committee Chairs

- makes decision about particular issue or particular agency
- find staffers
- reaches out to them

iii) Discussion about UCGIS members making site visits to agencies

Agreement

- Teams go out to do agency site visits
- Visits will provide introductions for junior UCGIS faculty who seek those connections
- Refine/solidify conclusions about how UCGIS will relate with a particular agency. This implies that conversations with agencies have to be initiated before the winter meeting.
- Volunteers (from active UCGIS members) who have previous/on-going relationships with specific agencies should be invited to take the lead on establishing those conversations with UCGIS.
- Must be coordinated with Research/Education Committee Chairs
- Site visits must be coordinated in advance; Recommend 4 person teams 2 senior/2 junior to each agency (Wilson)

iv) Discussion about site visits to congressional staff

Agreement

- This is up to individual members to push local and regional agendas; strategies may vary from university to university

Winter Meeting Working Schedule (Revised from Shuler’s proposal)

Thursday 9th Feb

Congressional Breakfast: 8.30 to 9.30 AM
 Single message (TBD)
 Opening statement (TBD)
 3 presentations (to be selected)
 Closing statement (TBD)

Agency Panel: 10.30 AM to 12 Noon (presenters TBD)

Lunch: On your own

Afternoon Site Visits: Teams go out to meet congressional staff at their offices

Friday 10th February

Council Meeting: Report Backs from Congressional and Agency Site Visits

General Discussion

Congressional committees to be highlighted

Sanders: selection of invitees important – shall we target folks we’ve already reached out to (i.e., health, homeland security)?

Shuler: we could work with the executive branch

Shuler: What about getting lobbyists on our campuses together regionally to get them to talk to each other and to share our UCGIS agenda
Elmes: It would be a good idea to get them to DC
Tulloch: Lobbyists on campus are approachable; however it's important to coordinate with university research office so they know what we are pushing for.

There was no agreement reached on how to target members of congress to invite and the best way to reach out to their staffers. Sanders provided examples of what had worked before and explained that its labor-intensive without being specifically rewarding. Suggestion was floated to empower John Shuler to hire a work study student to help coordinate the logistics of the winter meeting (Budget \$1000). Motion was not voted on.

5. 2006 Summer Assembly

Location

Tim Nyerges and Dawn Wright will select location in Pacific Northwest. Buckley will work to hold conjoined AutoCarto meeting

Structure

Assembly will be slightly different from previous years.

Wilson (as incoming President) will organize the members to determine a grand GIS challenge/challenges.

This challenge will be presented on the first day of the meeting

These challenges will be discussed in small groups/themes (Break out group discussions)

Research committee chair will program student paper sessions (Student Paper Sessions)

We will showcase members' work at the Summer Assembly (Member Spotlight)

Committee (Policy, Research, Education, Communications) Meetings

Agreement

Discussion needs to resume once location/dates have been finalized.

Request for a more detailed proposal at Winter Board meeting

6. Strategic Issues

6.1 Strategic Plan

Lam: We have looked at our plan, but we are doing ok, nothing stood out
We may want to think about looking at our strategic plan for 2001 (website)

6.2 Funding and Grants

USGS Post Doc (already discussed)

Internship Program (already discussed)

Visualization Workshop (Arnold)

- Workshop will most likely happen; details not yet resolved

6.3 Research

No specific items discussed

6.4 Education

Model curriculum will be published

6.5 Policy/Legislation

Winter meeting was the focus of discussion (see item 4 above)

6.6 Membership

Larson: Do we want to change our usual way of doing things? i.e., actually take action against seriously delinquent members?
Seriously in arrears
Chapel Hill, Amherst, Pittsburgh, Cal (Berkeley)
21 institutions in arrears of at least \$1000

6.7 Communications/Outreach

Lam: We need talking points, and suggestions about deliverable products that can be customized for a federal agency (refer back to...)
Wilson: We may need to put this off to the Winter meeting
Usery: Let us start talking with agencies we know and work with
Tulloch: Regional meeting idea

Board requests report of regional meeting (to be held Oct-Nov) at the Winter Meeting

7. Other Business

None

Motion to Adjourn proposed by Tulloch
Second by Wilson
Unanimously passed

Meeting Adjourned at 10.30 PM