



2004 Assembly

Education Committee meeting

Wednesday October 20, 2004, 3.00-5.00 pm

MINUTES

1. **Introductions** and brief review of Education Committee charge, accomplishments, goals.
 - a. Present: Aileen Buckley, David DiBiase (chair) Art Getis, Diansheng Guo, Ann Johnson, Arnold Landvoigt, Shati Lindsay, Yongmei Lu, Mary Lou Larson, Mike Phoenix, Jane Read, Lynn Usery, May Yuan, Le Wang, Libby Wentz, John Wilson
 - b. Thanks to Mary Lou Larson for taking the notes upon which these minutes are based.
2. **2004 Educator of the Year** award: Process and outcomes
 - a. For her many and important contributions to the GIS education community, Karen Kemp has been selected as the 2004 UCGIS Educator of the Year
 - b. Committee encouraged to submit more nominations next year—received only one new and two renewed nominations this year in addition to five carryovers.
3. **Model Curricula:** Status and action plan
 - a. Background (Wentz & Phoenix): Dangermond and Marble initially discussed need for curriculum that combined geography and computer science. ESRI provide \$10,000 startup in 1997. SmallWorld and Intergraph also contributed. In 1998 UCGIS Task Force formed.
 - b. Current status: Phase I document (“strawman”) released for review June 2003. Body of Knowledge specified above topic level. Topics need to be defined. Multiple pathways, supporting courses, cross-cutting themes, and implementation section need to be written. Task Force representatives estimate that the project remains “not quite half done.” Initiative currently stalled.
 - c. Task Force representatives unanimously agree that initiative needs new management, and that productivity depends on face-to-face workshops. Workshops require support for participants’ expenses. No funds available now.
 - d. Committee agrees that effort should be completed—i.e., published in book form—by 2007 or sooner if adequate funds can be attracted.
 - Although Task Force always conceived MC as work in progress, continually revised, document will not be considered authoritative until first edition is published.
 - e. Task Force submitted recommendations for project completion in 2003, including naming project director and manager.
 - f. Ownership: Education Committee and UCGIS Board unanimously agree that UCGIS “owns” the Model Curricula project. Thus, UCGIS has authority to appoint project management.

- Retired project manager Marble expects DeMers to lead. In a subsequent phone call (Nov 19) DeMers confirms this, but has secured no administrative support from New Mexico State U.
- DiBiase offered to assume project management role, allowing DeMers and other active Task Force to focus on content development. DeMers agreed.

g. Personnel

- 2003 Task Force report recommended project director and project manager
- DiBiase offered to serve as project manager if adequate funding can be attracted.
- DiBiase: Next team should consist of 4 principal editors plus about 8 contributors.
- Buckley: Key personnel need to be identified. High priority if and when funding acquired.

h. Workplan and proposed budget needed.

- Subsequently drafted by DiBiase, distributed to active Task Force members and prospective sponsors.
- Proposed budget includes 30% UCGIS overhead (User)

i. Discussion about final publication channel

- ESRI Press? Buckley: look to when ESRI would be able to use a publication as a “roll out” at the convention. Would Intergraph, SmallWorld, others object?
- Other academic publishers? John Wiley & Sons? Concerns about cost, availability as PDF through UCGIS Web site...
- Revenue potential? Wentz: any revenues from the book should feed back into the program so that it can be updated in future. David: potential for requests for specialized curriculum develop efforts.
- Government Printing Office? Landvoigt: a way to maintain flexibility with what is done with the document – and not rely only on industry for publication.

j. Motion to grant DiBiase interim authority to represent MC project. Seconded and passed.

4. **United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation:** Consortium of defense contractors specializing in the security realm and geospatial information. USGIF worried that supply of qualified geospatial intelligence analysts is not keeping pace with increasing demand.

- a. DiBiase, A. Johnson, and Kemp consulted with USGIF and NGA representatives Sept.8-9. USGIF and NGA want to stimulate development of university-based certificate programs in geospatial intelligence. Universities will want to participate

because of enrollment and revenue potential. USGIF wants to influence university curricula and assure quality.

- b. Formal quality control in higher education is called accreditation. UCGIS members disinclined to endorse or participate in accreditation. Agreed that UCGIS should participate in an advisory role, however.
 - c. At GEOINT 2004 (Oct. 12-14) USGIF announced formation of a Geospatial Intelligence Academy that will develop and promote curriculum guidelines and voluntary accreditation standards. USGIF will invite all interested parties to participate in panel that develops guidelines and standards. Academic participants to make up about one-third of expected 12-person panel.
 - d. Model Curricula should serve as basis for curriculum guidelines, at least to the extent that geospatial intelligence professionals rely upon geographic information science and technologies.
 - e. Can and should USGIF be convinced to support completion of the Model Curricula?
 - ESRI has promised some additional support if other organizations contribute
 - Usury: UCGIS Board endorse Education Committee's advisory contribution to Geospatial Intelligence Academy. Appropriate opportunity to provide leadership and perhaps attract funding needed to complete MC.
 - f. Motion offered to endorse Education Committee's advisory participation in USGIF/Geospatial Intelligence Academy, and to seek support for MC initiatives. Seconded and passed.
5. **Education Committee budget:** Not rolled over into 2004-05. Executive Director will ask committee chairs for budget proposals prior to next fiscal year.
6. **Summer Assembly** last week of June, 2005, Jackson Hole WY
- a. Wilson concerned that education sessions not overlap with research sessions, since this tends to segregate participants artificially. Committee agreed to convene two-day MC Task Force workshop prior to Summer Assembly, assuming funding available.
 - b. Wilson suggests panel on best teaching practices. DiBiase proposes workshop for graduate students.
 - c. Panel discussion about geospatial intelligence, including USGIF and Geospatial Intelligence Academy. Landvoigt to help DiBiase organize.
 - d. MC update session.
 - e. Keynote address on forthcoming NRC report "Thinking Spatially." Likely to influence support for K-12 geography in "No Child Left Behind" legislation. (DiBiase subsequently invited Roger Downs, who accepted.)
7. **SPACE workshops** Getis expects 4-5 workshop participants to show spatial thinking in non-geography/spatial disciplines at Winter assembly.
8. **GIS Certification Institute** (formerly URISA Certification Committee) update. Currently receiving applications at a rate of 30-40 per month at \$250 each. DiBiase, Kemp, A. Johnson,

others participate on Oversight Committee. UCGIS reps seem to have prevailed in establishing MC as reference standard to adjudicate applicants' education points claims.

9. **Geospatial Workforce Development Center**

- a. U.S. Department of Labor is consulting with GWDC, but not UCGIS, as it moves forward with its geospatial "high growth jobs" initiative. Background (DiBiase): Some years ago the leadership and some members of UCGIS' Model Curricula Task Force consulted with representatives of the NASA-funded Geospatial Workforce Development Center at the University of Southern Mississippi about the GWDC's "geospatial technology competency model" study. UCGIS essentially dismissed GWDC's efforts. GWDC has responded by focusing its efforts on community colleges, leaving the research universities to UCGIS. Meanwhile, Department of Labor seems to consider the NASA-funded efforts to be authoritative, and to share the belief that community colleges should be targeted for capacity-building efforts. Now UCGIS has no seat at the table and Model Curricula initiative has stalled.
- b. Assuming that funds can be attracted to rejuvenate Model Curricula initiative, Task Force should reach out to GWDC and invite them to get involved. After building a little good will we should then seek a seat at the table with DoL.
- c. Usery was funded by NASA to create one of 50 planned online, non-instructor-led courses related to remote sensing and GIS. "Institute for Advanced Education in Geospatial Sciences" at the University of Mississippi (<http://geoworkforce.olemiss.edu>) is licensing courses to agencies and universities for fee or percentage of tuition revenue. Implications for UCGIS?

10. **2005 UCGIS Virtual Seminar** (due to lateness of the hour, this item preempted)

- a. DiBiase has invited five faculty specialists (H. Onsurd, E. Epstein, W. Craig, F. Harvey and S. Ventura) to participate as lead faculty members in the Fall 2005 Virtual Seminar on "Ethics for Geographic Information Systems and Science Professionals."
- b. The Virtual Seminar enables graduate students at multiple UCGIS member institutions to study with leading scholars across the country. Dawn Wright's 1999 paper on the original UCGIS Virtual Seminars is available at <http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/virtual.html>
- c. The subject of the Virtual Seminar varies from year to year. The topic of the 2005 Seminar was inspired by the Geographic Information Systems Certification Institute's publication earlier this year of a Code of Ethics, the principal author of which was Will Craig. The Code is published at http://www.gisci.org/code_of_ethics.htm
- d. The goal of the 2005 Seminar will be to foster students' ability to recognize and respond appropriately to ethical problems encountered in professional practice, and to understand the bases of ethical practice in philosophy and law. As a vehicle for achieving this goal, Seminar students will be challenged to specify the objectives and content of a public-domain workshop on ethics that can be offered by higher education institutions and professional organizations.
- e. The Virtual Seminar will span ten weeks in the Fall of 2005, from 12 October through 21 December. Assuming that three leaders agree to participate, each seminar leader will be responsible for specifying learning objectives, assigning readings, identifying case studies, moderating discussions, and evaluating student work over a three-

week period. Leaders will earn a \$1000 honorarium for each three week period they lead.

- f. The Penn State Master of Geographic Information Systems program, which is conducted online via the University's World Campus, will offer the UCGIS Virtual Seminar to its registered students as GEOG 597. Students at other UCGIS member institutions will be able to participate in the Seminar as guests. Faculty members at other institutions may elect to offer a parallel course number so that their students may earn credit for their participation.
- g. The instructional design and development team that supports the Penn State Master of GIS program will coordinate faculty activities, host the primary e-learning infrastructure, and provide technical support. Students and faculty members will be able to access a syllabus, course calendar, assignments, and communication tools through Penn State's Web-based course management system. Other media, including desktop Web conferencing and streaming video, may also be employed as appropriate.

11. Action items

- a. Education Committee members to submit many more Educator of the Year nominations in 2005.
- b. In cooperation with active Task Force members, DiBiase to lead effort to reorganize and rejuvenate Model Curricula initiative.
- c. MC Task Force to invite participation by GWDC representatives.
- d. Education Committee to promote applications to USGIF Geospatial Intelligence Academy and to select academic representatives.
- e. DiBiase to organize UCGIS Virtual Seminar for Fall 2005.
- f. DiBiase and Education Committee members to organize keynote address, panel discussions, and workshops for 2005 Summer Assembly.

12. Meeting adjourned 4:43 pm