

UCGIS External Relations Committee Report UCGIS Annual Symposium 2015

This report covers the activities of External Relations Committee (formerly Policy & Legislation) for the period from May 2014 through May 2015 including the 2014 annual symposium in Pasadena, CA and leading up to the 2015 annual symposium in Pasadena, CA.

Recap of Recent Committee Activities

Jeff Hamerlinck, University of Wyoming, is completing his third year as chair of the committee. Hamerlinck's current term runs through the end of the 2015 annual symposium in Washington, DC, but he has agreed to stay on in the chair's role through the end of December 2015 while a new chair is being recruited.

Major activities during the last 12 months included the following:

1. **2014 Symposium.** For the 2014 annual symposium, the P&L Committee sponsored a plenary talk on Wednesday, May 21st (Day Three) by Dr. Harlan Onsrud, University of Maine, titled 'Tracking Everyone Everywhere All the Time: Protecting Individual Privacy within a Ubiquitous Observation Society'.

The P&L Committee also hosted a committee breakfast meeting on Tuesday, May 20th. Issues discussed included participation in the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations, future advocacy roles for UCGIS within the geospatial community, and ideas for involvement in the 2015 symposium

2. **Participation on COGO activities.** Since summer 2013, Hamerlinck has served as the UCGIS representative on the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO). UCGIS Executive Director Diana Sinton has also represented UCGIS in these activities, which have primarily consisted of quarterly teleconferences. Recent COGO activities have included publication of the 'Report Card on the U.S. National Spatial Data Infrastructure' and endorsement of the 'Geospatial Data Act of 2015'.
 - a. **NSDI Report Card link:** http://cogo.pro/uploads/COGO-Report_Card_on_NSDI.pdf
 - b. **Geospatial Data Act link:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/740/text>
3. **GISCI Participation.** As committee chair, Hamerlinck serves as one of two UCGIS representatives on the board of the GIS Certification Institute. The other UCGIS representative is currently Helmut Kraenzle, James Madison University. The primary focus of the GISCI board continues to be the roll-out of the GISP exam in late CY2015.
4. **Committee By-Laws Change (new name).** At the 2014 Virtual Council Meeting (December 4, 2014), the Council approved changes to the Consortium's bylaws which changed the name of the standing *Policy & Legislation Committee* to the

External Relations Committee, reflecting in part a shift in emphasis toward policy *coordination* with other sectors of the geospatial community and *education/awareness about UCGIS with government, industry and other collaborators*.

2015 Symposium Agenda Items

For the 2015 annual symposium, the External Relations Committee session on Day One (Thursday, May 28th) will recap COGO and GISCI activities over the previous 12 months, including comments from Bill Hodge GISCI Executive Director. Hamerlinck will also moderate a presentation at the Library of Congress that evening by Tim Petty from the Office of U.S. Senator James Risch on the '*Geospatial Data Act of 2015 and other related Congressional Activities*'.

An informal External Relations Committee breakfast meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 30th at 7:30am (location TBA). Agenda items include the following:

- Recruitment of new External Relations Committee Chair
- COGO chair succession responsibilities
- Potential future advocacy roles for UCGIS within the geospatial community

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Hamerlinck, University of Wyoming
Chair, UCGIS Policy & Legislation Committee
May 25, 2015