

## Annual Report of the UCGIS Membership Committee

Jennifer Swift, Chair

July 22, 2021

- I became membership committee chair on October 26, 2018. The report documenting the 2019-2020 membership committee activities are available [here](#). This report covers membership related activities since June, 2020.
- This past year the committee consisted of myself, Christopher Franklin - University of Redlands, Lucy Huang @ Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, Nicholas Kruskamp @ North Carolina State University, Victor Gregor @ University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Seda Şalap-Ayça @ University of Massachusetts, Amherst at Mount Ida Campus, Siva Ramachandra @ Georgia Tech, Megan Snow @ American University, and David Tulloch @ Rutgers University. All through my term as committee chair, I have received excellent support from Diana Sinton in all membership activities. Additionally, the membership committee has been actively collaborating with and receiving continued support from the Communications Committee, which consisted of Jennifer Bernstein @ University of Southern California, Kate Vavra-Musser @ University of Southern California, and Seda Şalap-Ayça.
- The Membership Committee organized a virtual Focus Group on November 16, 2020 to gather information to inform current and future plans and activities for UCGIS. The participants included eight faculty and staff from eight different UCGIS member institutions, plus six "listeners" from other universities and UCGIS. A detailed summary of the Focus Group observations and recommendations previously shared with the UCGIS Board are provided [here](#).
- New Members since May 2020:
  - Northeastern University, Boston MA, became a new *full* member during the June 2021 UCGIS Council Meeting (delegates Moira Zellner and Bahare Sanaie-Movahed). Geospatial research and teaching are being conducted in many units across campus, including the College of Engineering (COE), the College of Science, the College of Social Science and Humanities, and the College of Professional Studies. Current and recent research and curricular initiatives are lead by the NULab for Texts, Maps and Networks, the Boston Area Research Initiative (BARI), and the Northeastern University Library.
- Institutions with which UCGIS has had conversations about new or renewed memberships since January 2020:
  - Saint Louis University
  - University of New Mexico, Dept. Geography and Environmental Studies, UNM Center for Advancement of Spatial Informatics Research and Education (ASPIRE), UNM Interdisciplinary Science Cooperative: Renewal of Membership
  - Indiana University, The Polis Center: Renewal of Membership
  - University of California, Merced
  - Carnegie Mellon University
  - University of California, Riverside

- Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York: Renewal of Membership
- University of Alabama, Huntsville
- University of Leicester, United Kingdom
  
- Focus Group
  - The Membership Committee helped to organize a 2-hour Focus Group in November 2020, consisting of UCGIS members from eight different Universities. The Membership Committee summarized the discussion into observations and recommendations of into general observations, short term and long-term recommendations. The Focus Group Observations and Recommendations can be found [here](#).
  
- Outreach and communication activities:
  - We updated the questions in our *Information Required for Membership Applications to UCGIS* document used for recruitment, available on the [Membership FAQ page](#) and [here](#).
  - We updated the [Membership FAQ page](#) to include the [formal guidelines](#) that explain how a multi-campus or state-wide system can become a Multi-Campus Member of UCGIS.
  - We also updated the list of membership benefits in our *UCGIS Value Proposition* for distribution via email to potential new members. This is available on the [Membership FAQ page](#) and [here](#). In addition, the *UCGIS Membership Flyer* has been updated and can be shared with colleagues and potential members, also available on the on the Membership FAQ page and [here](#).
  
- Focus Group
  - The Membership Committee helped to organize a 2-hour Focus Group in November 2020. A few more details here. A summary of their discussion and recommendations can be found here.
  
- Upcoming Topics for Discussion within the Membership Committee
  - The Membership Committee invites open-ended conversations from our board, delegates and members about when, where and how to implement the recommendations of the Focus Group linked above.
  - Discuss the roles that UCGIS members might play in support and networking among all UCGIS members, and in particular students, in the global transition in research and pedagogy to hybrid and online formats in a post-pandemic world.
  
- Anticipated Activities for the Membership Committee in the coming months
  - Move forward with outreach activities to engage our list of potential new UCGIS members, newly updated in 2021, and follow-up with those organizations that have expressed interest in membership prior to and during the pandemic, providing insights into the current and future roles UCGIS may play in in supporting our members in these challenging times.
  - Provide an online map of UCGIS members to be shared publicly, based on an updated member list as of June 2021.

- Maintain and continue to improve upon 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 about any new membership models). Make sure that versions of all templates are current and are available both in the Google Drive and TeamWork repositories.