

Annual Report of the UCGIS Membership Committee

Jennifer Swift, Chair

May 30, 2019

- 1) I became membership committee chair on October 26, 2018. I understand that the membership committee chair position had been vacant since May 19, 2018. This report covers membership-related activities since October, 2018.
- 2) Currently there are no other individuals on the committee and I will be soliciting interest from delegates during the upcoming Symposium. In the meanwhile, I have received excellent support from Diana Sinton in coming up to speed with membership activities to date, and by both Treasurer Ed Chow and Diana Sinton in developing ideas for improvements to our exiting membership model moving forward.
- 3) New or Re-joined Members since May 2018:
 - The Department of the Geography & the Environment at the University of Denver became a new *basic* member during the May 2018 UCGIS Symposium (Delegate: Rebecca Powell).
 - The Center for Geospatial Technologies at Clemson University became a new *basic* member during the May 2018 UCGIS Symposium (Delegate: Patricia Carbajales-Dale).
 - Led by Janet Silbernagel and Song Gao (Delegates), the University of Wisconsin at Madison re-joined UCGIS as a *full* member during the May 2018 Symposium.
 - Under the leadership of Forrest Bowlick (Delegate), the University of Massachusetts, Amherst re-joined UCGIS as a *basic* member during the May 2018 Symposium.
 - The Center for Science and Social Science Information at Yale University became a new *full* member during the December 2018 UCGIS Council Meeting (Delegates: Miriam Olivares and Dana Tomlin).
 - The Spatial Applications Division Leuven (SADL) at KU Leuven, Belgium, became a new *basic* member during the December 2018 UCGIS Council Meeting (Delegate: Danny Vandenbroucke).
- 4) Transitioned Members since May 2018
 - Kent State University transitioned from a full to a basic membership for its Department of Geography
 - George Mason University transitioned from a full to a basic membership for its Department of Geography and Geoinformation Science
- 5) Outgoing members since May 2018:
 - The University of Michigan left UCGIS membership in December 2018. They may consider rejoining later in 2019 or 2020 after a new faculty member arrives and gets established.

6) Institutions currently considering full or basic UCGIS membership:

- University of California, Merced
- Carnegie Mellon University
- University of Hawaii at Manoa
- University of Leicester, United Kingdom
- University of California, Riverside

7) Outreach and communication activities:

- Diana Sinton updated the *UCGIS Membership Value Proposition & Benefits* webpage as of April 2019, and I reviewed it: <https://www.ucgis.org/membership-in-ucgis>. A 1-page pdf is also available [here](#). Both have since been shared via email with potential new members.
- Based on the updated value proposition, I generated a new *UCGIS Membership Flyer*, reviewed and printed by Diana Sinton for distribution at the 2019 AAG Annual meeting, and via email to potential new members. This is available on the homepage and on the [Membership FAQ page](#) too, [here](#).

8) Upcoming Topics for Discussion and Review

- A Membership Model Task Force, consisting of Jen Swift, Ed Chow and Diana Sinton, has developed drafts of new membership models to be shared with all attendees at the 2019 Symposium Town Hall, and over the coming year, 2019-2020. Diana Sinton would like the organization to consider a “lower the rate, broaden the base” approach. Reasons for UCGIS to consider modification of the existing membership model:
 - Diversify the membership
 - Increase the membership
 - Increase the organization’s overall operating budget so that UCGIS can consider hiring a 2nd staff person. Having a second employee will bolster the organization’s requests to federal agencies (such as NSF) to consider UCGIS eligible to manage grants it may be recommended to receive. Small organizations with only 0.5 FTE employees are not.
 - Improve and update the multi-campus membership category. The only current multi-campus member is a legacy one: the California State University which covers 23 campuses under one full member dues. Other multi-campus systems that could be interested in participating under a revised model include:
 - University of Illinois (UIUC, Chicago, Springfield)
 - University of Washington (Seattle, Tacoma)
 - University of Minnesota (Twin Cities, Duluth)
 - State University of New York (Buffalo, Binghamton, Albany, others)
 - Potential models to be discussed in UCGIS town hall meeting, for example:
 - No multi-campus membership; OR

- A flagship campus pays a dominant amount + some lesser amount for additional campuses (UCGIS sends multiple invoices to multiple campuses); OR
- A lump-sum for all, for example \$5,000; (UCGIS sends only one invoice to some central office); OR
- Allow the existing members to choose any new models to be adopted or grandfather in according to their existing membership

9) Anticipated Activities for the Membership Committee in the coming months

- Act on and implement the ideas and recommendations from the Town Hall discussion on a new membership model.
- Refine and publish policies for the upgrading (i.e., from basic to full) and downgrading (i.e., from full to basic) of memberships in consultation with the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. (Only if no new membership models are adopted.)
- Update list of potential new members and follow-up with those organizations that have expressed interest in membership, especially when/if a new membership model is approved by the delegates.
- Update and 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 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.