

Annual Report of the UCGIS Membership Committee

Jennifer Swift, University of Southern California, Chair

May 28, 2020

- I became membership committee chair on October 26, 2018. The report documenting the 2018-2019 membership committee activities are available [here](#). This report covers membership related activities since June, 2019.
- This past year the committee consisted of myself and Treasurer Edwin Chow. I will be soliciting interest from delegates to join this committee during the upcoming Symposium. All through my term as committee chair I have received excellent support from Diana Sinton in all membership activities. Through a series of communications and online meetings to gain insights and feedback from the existing multicampus member delegates throughout this past year, the Membership Model Task Force, consisting of Jen Swift, Ed Chow and Diana Sinton, advanced and finalized a revision of our *multicampus* membership category moving forward. The highlights are as follows:
 - Campuses must have a formal mechanism for their own partnerships within a state-wide or region-wide system, or other formal consortium
 - Minimum of 2 campuses & no maximum number of affiliated campuses
 - Dues: \$2250, two delegates per membership, up to a maximum of 5 per system
 - For greater delegate representation, the system or any campus can pay \$250/year per additional delegate
 - Existing multi-campus members' current dues schemes unchanged until December 31, 2026
 - Voting on revised Multi-Campus Membership Category slated for the June 2020 Board Meeting
- New Members since May 2019:
 - The Departments of Geography and Environment, Earth Sciences, and Natural Resources & Environmental Management at UH-Manoa, and the Department of Geography and Environmental Science at UH-Hilo, University of Hawaii, as a system became a new *multicampus* member during the December 2019 UCGIS Council Meeting (delegate Yi Qiang). The University of Hawaii System includes 3 universities (UH-Manoa, UH-Hilo and UH-West Oahu), 7 community colleges, and community-based learning centers across Hawaii.
 - American University in Washington D.C. became a new *full* member during the December 2019 UCGIS Council Meeting (delegates Meagan Snow and Michael Alonzo). Geospatial research is being conducted in the Departments of Environmental Science, Computer Science, Sociology, School of Public Affairs, School of International Service, the School of Communication, and the Department of Math & Statistics.
- Institutions that have expressed an initial interest in UCGIS membership (initial or a rejoining):
 - University of California, Merced
 - Carnegie Mellon University
 - University of California, Riverside

- Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York
- University of Alabama, Huntsville
- University of Leicester, United Kingdom
- Outreach and communication activities:
 - We held a webinar on February 28th 1:30PM PT-2:30PM PT titled *Discussion about UCGIS Multi-Campus Membership Category* to engage the primary stakeholders, the exiting mutlicampus national and international members, in the revision of the multi-campus membership model. UCGIS Board members also participated. Details of proposed updates to membership models were developed and shared online with the stakeholders throughout the past year. Diana Sinton confirmed appropriate rights, level, and fee for international members with our UCGIS Lawyer.
 - Ed Chow, Diana Sinton and I compiled a new *UCGIS Membership Committee* webpage that provides a committee overview: <https://www.ucgis.org/membership-committee>. This can be shared with potential new members as well as in recruiting new members for committees.
 - We [updated the UCGIS value proposition in January 2020](#) for distribution via email to potential new members. This is available on the homepage and [here](#).
 - Based on a presentation Diana Sinton gave at Yale, she created a short video (about 5 minutes) on “How to Get the Most from Your UCGIS Membership”, reviewed by the Communications Committee Chair, Dr. Jennifer Bernstein and I. The video will be posted on the UCGIS the [Membership FAQ page](#).
- Upcoming Topics for Discussion
 - We invite an open-ended conversations from our board, delegates and members about how to continue to diversify and increase our membership
 - Discuss the roles that all UCGIS members might play in facilitating networking in research proposals and projects, and looking to the future pedagogy of teaching our disciplines online
- Anticipated Activities for the Membership Committee in the coming months
 - At the upcoming Town Hall in Fall 2020, we will encourage discussion around our value proposition to ensure we are providing the maximum benefits, especially in the post-COVID situation
 - Continue to update our list of potential new members and follow-up with those organizations that have expressed interest in membership prior to the pandemic, providing insights into the current and future roles UCGIS may play in in supporting our members in these challenging times.
 - 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.