

## **SURA Resolution in Support of a Distributed and Federated National Facility for Ocean Observations and Predictions**

**Whereas** the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the President's U.S. Ocean Action Plan describe the multitude of stakeholder and societal needs for ocean information that justify establishment of an integrated national system of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems, namely, the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS); and

**Whereas** the Southern Governors Association (SGA) put forth a resolution in February 2002 supporting the SURA initiative to enable more effective protection of life and property to the increasingly developed coastal zone, to offer a vehicle for bringing the extensive and widely dispersed intellectual talent of the ocean sciences community to address a program of homeland security via an integrated and spatially distributed program, and to aid in addressing the ecological and environmental concerns endangering the health and safety of inhabitants and marine resources; and

**Whereas** many SURA universities, and other research institutions around the country, have subsequently undertaken initiatives with short-term grant and pilot funding to demonstrate their ability to meet the national need for ocean information, and many other institutions have untapped capacity to contribute to a system as envisioned by the SGA, the President and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy; and

**Whereas** SURA initiated the SURA Coastal Ocean Observing and Prediction (SCOOP) program to enable the integration of existing and future ocean observing activities and work toward an open-access network of distributed sensors, linked via light-wave networks to state-of-the-art computing systems that track and predict events in the southeastern coastal zone in real time and provide components of a more comprehensive coastal security infrastructure; and

**Whereas** successes to date in the SCOOP program demonstrate the power of multiple universities working together to implement a service oriented architecture for environmental prediction that may serve as a prototype for a scalable distributed facility for research and applications, one that could benefit from a more mature governance that engages the broad community in an IOOS that supports relevant agencies' missions; and

**Whereas** SURA with Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) jointly holds the Department of Energy (DOE) management and operations (M&O) contract for the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (JLab) that demonstrates viability of a government-owned and contractor-operated governance model that engages the research community in the management and operation of a national facility and therefore positions SURA to play a leading role in advancing the concept of a federated national facility for coastal research and applications in support of the IOOS concept; and

**Whereas** the SURA IT Community, working in conjunction with private sector partners, is advancing SURAGrid as a shared information technology (IT) platform for enabling grand-challenge research and application agendas and has embraced the SURA Coastal Ocean Observing and Prediction (SCOOP) program as a SURAGrid "poster-child" application; and

**Whereas** the ocean-science community could benefit from private sector partnerships that offer strategic opportunities to advance the SCOOP program and related ocean observing initiatives as a prototype distributed and federated national facility that engages SURA universities to meet national needs and relevant federal agency missions in analogy with JLab; and

**Whereas** CORE, JOI and SURA (CJS) have joined in an unprecedented partnership of consortia that collectively expand the SURA university membership to include most of the U.S. ocean-science research institutions that can contribute to a comprehensive and truly nationwide system of earth and ocean observations and predictions;

**Now therefore let it be resolved that** the SURA Board of Trustees formally recognizes the importance of SCOOP as a regional prototype of a distributed facility and comprises a technical proof of concept for the IOOS, and strongly encourages the SURA Coastal Committee and SCOOP team to work with other existing ocean observing initiatives and regional programs to unite behind the CJS partnership in support of realizing a complementary governance model for the IOOS that will benefit our region and the nation;

**Be it further resolved that** the SURA Board of Trustees formally recognizes the importance to the academic community and all other IOOS stakeholders of governance of a federated system, recognizes that such a system must have strong operations management to assure maximum benefit to our nation, and strongly encourages its Coastal Committee and other SURA members to develop and advance partnership among the academic community, private-sector and government entities to build and operate systems of systems with the objective of delivering best-in-class science and operational services to the American public;

**Be it further resolved** that SURA will help pursue authorization and appropriation for implementation of the IOOS; and

**Be it finally resolved that** the SURA Board of Trustees strongly encourages its coastal research team continue to play an active leadership role in helping to advance not only the IOOS but other synergistic activities such as the NSF Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) for gaining a deeper understanding of the ocean sciences, to the benefit of our region and the nation, with direct participation from the extended academic community and in full partnership with government agencies and public and private sector corporations.

*THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY CERTIFIES THAT she is the duly elected and qualified Secretary and the custodian of the books and records and seal of SURA, a corporation duly formed pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and that the foregoing is a true record of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the SURA Board of Trustees and that said meeting was held in accordance with state law and the Bylaws of SURA on May 3, 2006, and that said resolution is now in full force and effect without modification or rescission.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed my name as Secretary and have hereunto affixed the SURA corporate seal this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2006.*

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ <Original signed and sealed>

*Elizabeth L. Lawson, Corporate Secretary*