

## **SURA Coastal Research Committee**

### *Purpose:*

The Coastal Research Committee is responsible for establishing direction and shepherding SURA's Coastal Research activities, ensuring the scientific quality of these activities and their relevance to the citizens of our region and the nation.

### *Charge:*

The SURA Coastal Research Committee is responsible for the development of the vision and mission statements and a strategic plan for SURA's Coastal Research program. This plan, which should be presented to the SURA Board for adoption, will inform Committee decisions and should be reviewed annually for currency with amendments brought to the SURA Board for review and adoption.

The SURA Coastal Research Committee will be responsible for monitoring, overseeing, and evaluating progress and outcomes of all SURA activities, initiatives and programs in the Coastal Research arena. The Committee will also evaluate all new project requests and make recommendations to the SURA Board for any significant action, including the formation or dissolution of Scientific Interest Groups (SIGs).

The Committee will review staff recommendations regarding funding, internal or external to SURA, in support of its initiatives and programs. (Members of the Committee must recuse themselves from engaging in discussions and voting on issues that place them in a conflict-of-interest position.) The Committee may convene external review panels and/or advisory groups to help it in the execution of its responsibilities. The Chair will advance Committee recommendations to the SURA President/CEO for execution, or if deemed a significant action, to the SURA Board for review and final disposition.

The Committee will advise the President/CEO of SURA regarding an appropriate staffing plan (see below) for SURA's Coastal Research activities, and ensure that secession planning as it pertains to SURA's ocean focus is being appropriately addressed within SURA.

The Committee will be expected to advance recommendations to the SURA Nominating Committee for chairmanship of the Committee. The Chair of the Committee must be a SURA Trustee who is elected by the Board for a three-year term from a slate of at least two candidates.

### *Membership:*

The SURA Coastal Research Committee will be comprised of a voting representative from each of the SURA member institutions (elected by the institution's Council member and who may or may not be that institution's SURA Trustee); trustees-at-large endorsed by the SURA Board; and ex-officio, non-voting members from other institutions which

may include state and the federal governments, and the private sector, as deemed appropriate by the Committee in the execution of its charge.

The Committee may elect from among its voting members a Steering Group that will act on behalf of the full Committee when the Committee is not in session. A simple majority of the Steering Group must be SURA trustees. Recommendations advanced to the SURA Board from the Committee or its Steering Group must report the voice (yea or nay) of its Trustee members. The Chair of the Coastal Research Committee will serve as Chair the Steering Group.

*Staff:*

The work of the Coastal Research Committee will be carried out under the leadership of a SURA Director for Coastal Research Sciences, who reports to the President/CEO of SURA. Other personnel, as needed and appropriate will support the work of the Committee under the supervision of the Director. The staff may be extended to include a SURA Fellow for Coastal Research upon recommendation from the Committee and with the approval of the SURA Board. The Director will be a member of the SURA Executive Leadership Team.

An expectation of SURA is that the Director of the Coastal Research Committee will keep the Chair of the Coastal Research Committee apprised of the ongoing activities through regular timely exchanges. The President/CEO of SURA will consult with the Committee Chair regarding the effectiveness of the staff in executing SURA's strategic plan for the ocean sciences.