



SURA Resolution in Support of a Distributed Coastal Laboratory (DCL) for Ocean Observations and Predictions

April 17, 2007

Whereas the SCOOP program is advancing a prototype distributed facility that engages multiple universities and disciplines to create a cyberinfrastructure for coastal research and applications, focused on predicting and analyzing coastal hazards, hurricane impacts and inundation; and

Whereas the academic community must play a strong and substantive role in any national program focused on applying better science to meet national need, and a viable option involves a service-oriented architecture for a federated and distributed program, provided there is strong operations management to assure maximum benefit to our nation; and

Whereas the SURA Board of Trustees has previously encouraged the Coastal Committee and other SURA members to develop and advance partnership among the academic community, private-sector, and government entities to build and operate a systems of systems with the objective of delivering best-in-class science and operational services to the American public; and

Whereas the SURA Board of Trustees has strongly encouraged its coastal research team to continue to play an active leadership role in helping to advance not only the IOOS but other synergistic activities for gaining a deeper understanding of the ocean sciences, to the benefit of our region and the nation; and

Whereas substantial investments in coastal observations and linked models have been made, they remain inadequate, and the U.S. ocean observing enterprise is still not fulfilling its potential to provide the best possible ocean information for research, operations, the public and other users due to a lack of effective coordination and cooperation; and

Whereas SURA envisions integrating the diverse and multi-purpose coastal observing and predicting assets that already exist, into a coherent geographically distributed but operationally integrated Distributed Coastal Laboratory to effectively integrate real time ocean observing systems, enable the research needed to understand and predict environmental events, and advance operational information services for safety, security, and commerce; and

Whereas SURA can provide the leadership necessary to interact with the coastal and IT research communities, to assemble experts and resources from the entire Southeastern U.S. and beyond, and to develop clear strategies for the effective development and funding of a Distributed Coastal Laboratory; and

Whereas the existing SURA Coastal Research Program and Information Technology Program have demonstrated capacity to deliver both improvements in prediction and observing capabilities that can transfer into enhanced products for decision-makers and users, and optimize the application of our rapidly increasing ocean knowledge through regional partnerships; and

Whereas SURA acknowledges that the Coastal Community and the IT Community have the power to come together to provide research consensus, lobby for support, and communicate the potential of the science of the DCL; and

Whereas SURA recognizes the importance of the following mechanisms for coordinating research within the DCL:

- The ability to transfer science into operational applications;
- The formation of Prospectus development teams;
- Consensus on a central vision, community oversight, and clear priorities;
- A Community working together toward specific and important goals; and
- Creating a close, active, and mutually beneficial connection between the research and operational user communities;

REVISED DRAFT 2007

Now therefore be it resolved that the SURA Board of Trustees endorses the concept of a Distributed Coastal Laboratory with an IT architecture that enables multi-institutional participation and support for multiple facets of coastal science research and applications; and

Be it further resolved that the SURA Board of Trustees supports an equally multi-faceted funding strategy, including a multi-state funding model, enhanced federal funding, and private sector support.