

SURA Membership Categories
Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations
DRAFT ~ 7 August 2007

Background

Currently there exists only one membership category in SURA, namely that of a full voting Member as defined in Section Two of the SURA Bylaws. Present Members are typically universities within the SURA footprint. Members are also allowed from outside the SURA footprint, subject to a 10% cap, and can include for-profit companies and not-for-profit organizations, all within a single Member category under the current bylaws.

The breadth and type of activities in which SURA and its Committees are now engaged, however, have expanded to include many collaborations with organizations that would like to be formally associated with SURA but who would not typically qualify for or be interested in full membership. It would be advantageous to allow these organizations to participate in the activities of SURA without becoming full members in a more formal manner than is currently possible by permitting them to join via new membership categories. Examples of such organizations include universities that wish to participate in only one aspect of SURA's programmatic initiatives (e.g., Committee-level programs such as IT, Coastal, or JLab; or, a specific activity such as Terahertz); companies that want to play an active role in certain aspects of SURA (e.g., technology commercialization); or, other non-profit groups, universities, or colleges that have alignment of vision as well as mission with SURA in certain areas (e.g., multi-institutional marine consortia like LUMCOM in Louisiana or SKIDAWAY in Georgia).

At the Spring 2007 Board meeting, the Development Committee presented its preliminary recommendations to the Executive Committee for review, who then instructed the staff to create an Ad Hoc Committee on SURA Membership Categories. This Ad Hoc Committee met in July 2007 and developed this document and its included recommendations.

It is hereby recommended that SURA create two new categories of membership – Corporate Member and Associate Member – in addition to the existing category, to be renamed “Standard Member” and referred to simply as “Member.” The complete details of these membership categories are given below.

Proposed categories of SURA Membership

Standard Member: The current membership category (both within and outside the region) will henceforth be referred to as “Standard Member” or simply “Member.” Only universities and colleges or other not-for-profit organizations within the SURA geographic footprint are eligible for this category of membership, with the exception (as is now the case) that 10% of the Standard Members can come from outside the SURA footprint.

Corporate Member: This new category of membership is reserved for any private sector corporation with an interest in joining SURA to participate in any or all of its programmatic activities. Typical examples would be major corporate players like Boeing or IBM, with ties to a particular programmatic area (Coastal or IT in these examples) but with interest in other SURA programs as well, or smaller companies interested in unique aspects of our programs. There will be three levels of Corporate Membership, as outlined in the chart below.

Associate Member: This category of membership is available for any type of organization, whether academic or corporate, of any size. Associate membership would allow organizations to participate actively in a particular programmatic area without joining SURA in its other programs. Typical examples would include universities outside the SURA footprint who wished to participate in SURAgri or Terahertz activities and minority-serving institutions or liberal arts colleges who wished to participate in a single SURA activity.

Summary Chart:

Type/Level	Standard Membership	Corporate Membership			*Associate Membership
Description		Platinum	Gold	Silver	
Initiation Fee	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,000
Annual Fee	\$3,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,000
Nomination Type	Self	Self or Board	Self or Board	Self or Board	Committee
Approval Required	Council of Presidents	Council of Presidents	Board of Trustees	Board of Trustees	Board of Trustees
Board of Trustees (Voting) Seat	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Committee Membership/Vote	<i>Members may have voting representatives on Committees as listed. *Associate Members may join multiple Committees only with nomination from the additional Committee(s) and approval of the Board of Trustees.</i>				
	Yes (multiple)	Yes (multiple)	Yes (multiple)	Yes (single)	Yes (single)*
Branding Opportunities	Website and publications	Website, events and publications	Website and events	Website only	Website only
SURAtch Reports ²	<i>Reports provides companies with comprehensive list of technologies available for licensing, joint development, and funding from our universities, typically at a rate of \$5,000-10,000 for each report.</i>				
	None	Two free annually	One free annually	None	None
Ad Hoc Committees, etc.	<i>Ad Hoc Committees are formed investigate or pursue special topics of interest to SURA members.</i>				
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Joint Proposals	<i>Joint funding proposals (e.g., to a federal or state agency) may be written and led by any SURA member.</i>				
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SURAfund Participation	<i>SURAfund is a seed-stage investment funding program for university startups, administered by SURA.</i>				
	Submit Plans Only	Submit and Review Plans	Submit and Review Plans	Submit and Review Plans	Submit Plans Only