

Meeting Summary

SURA Coastal Research Committee, Washington D.C. October 20, 2009

Committee Chair, Carolyn Thoroughgood, called the meeting to order at 12 Noon.

The meeting began with introductions and lunch which included presentations and discussions centered on the interim report of the President's Ocean Policy Task Force. This was followed by a discussion of modeler's needs for a testbed and related IT. The remainder of the meeting focused on strategic planning.

Attendees (* indicates SURA Trustee)

* C. Thoroughgood, UDE, Chair

* O. Brown, U. Miami

L. Atkinson, ODU

G. Summers, UMD-Baltimore

R. Avissar, U. Miami

M. Briscoe, COL,

* M. Fletcher, USC

R. Gagosian, COL,

C. Harris, VIMS/W&M,

P. Hill, COL,

* H. Seim, UNC-CH,

R. Signell, USGS,

* I. Urasa, Hampton U,

* S. Graves, UAH/IT Committee

* D. Lambert, IT Committee

J. Draayer, SURA President

D. Wright, SURA,

L. Bermudez, SURA,

LUNCHEON - Invited Presentation:

President's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force and New Opportunities

Discussion leaders: Bob Gagosian (COL President), Peter Hill & Mel Briscoe, Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL)

Key Points:

- Emphasis will be on Ecosystem-based management in future
- Regional ocean governance efforts are in planning stages
- Improved interagency cooperation/coordination is envisioned
- Approach will involve "Marine Spatial Planning" (MSP)
- Invigorated marine science and research enterprise
- Bob Gagosian also presented a summary to the full board on October 21

A Testbed to Advance Community Coastal Modeling–

Discussion Leader: Rich Signell, USGS

Immediate future needs from IT include:

- Support for unstructured grids
- Development of protocols for model subsetting
- More standardized tools
- Comparisons of data approaches to data assimilation
- Support for model coupling

Strategic Planning I: Goals & SURA's Services to Coastal Science-

Discussion Leader: Harvey Seim, UNC Chapel Hill

- Criticisms of SCOOP included partner selection process. There have been improvements but more needs to be done in the way of advertising opportunities.
- The focus of SURA's Coastal Program should be redefined and there should be more emphasis on the process of community engagement and less on IT tools.
- It was proposed to redefine SURA's niche as "Environmental Informatics" as opposed to "Coastal Informatics".
- It was proposed to rename the CRC the "Coastal and **Environmental** Research Committee" to better reflect inclusion of hydrology, meteorology and other aspects of non-coastal environmental science.
- In strategic planning it was proposed to replace the "Distributed Coastal Laboratory" emphasis (which implies a tool) with emphases more directly focused on scientific outcome (which the tool can help to achieve). (*This change is now reflected in the attached Executive Summary of the Strategic Plan.*)

Strategic Planning II: Emerging Trends & SURA's Roles

Discussion Leader: Larry Atkinson, Old Dominion University

The new national trends that may guide SURA's future pursuits include:

- Coastal protection against rising sea level
- Climate change
- Renewable energy sources (particularly wind from coastal and shelf installations)
- Ecosystem-based Management
- Marine Spatial Planning
- Increasing public interest in environmental information

Strategic Planning III: Funding Strategies

Discussion Leader: Madilyn Fletcher, University of South Carolina

- Future competitive proposals should be directly relevant to SURA's Coastal and Environmental Goals and must not compete with individual institutions.
- Earmarking is no longer a serious option
- Opportunities within DOE labs should be explored, particularly those related to climate change modeling and renewable energy (wind etc.)
- The merits of pursuing support from foundations and philanthropic sources should be discussed with the Council of Presidents.

Actions and Immediate Next Steps

- Change the name of CRC to “Coastal and Environmental Research Committee” (CERC). This change was approved by the full board on October 21, 2009.
- Expand Committee Membership Accordingly
- Revise the draft Strategic Plan to emphasize domain sciences and reduce emphasis on the “Distributed Coastal Laboratory. *Status: The Executive Summary and “Assumptions” sections of the Strategic Plan have been revised accordingly (attached). Revisions to the remaining sections of the plan are in progress.*
- Assemble a small working group to plan a SURA sponsored workshop aimed at identifying key “grand challenges” in transformational coastal and environmental research. *Status: Several attendees volunteered to serve on this group. They include Madilyn Fletcher, Larry Atkinson, Isai Urasa and Sara Graves with Don Wright serving as SURA facilitator. Additional group membership will be recruited to give broader representation from the expanded domain of the environmental sciences. Suggestions for additional members are invited.*
- The merits (or otherwise) of pursuing support from foundations and philanthropic sources should be discussed with the Council of Presidents

The Committee Meeting Adjourned at 5:15 PM