

SURA Coastal Research

**SURA Board of Trustees Meeting
October 21, 2009**

LUNCHEON - Invited Presentation:

President's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force and New Opportunities

Discussion leaders: Bob Gagosian, Peter Hill & Mel Briscoe, Consortium for Ocean Leadership

- Emphasis will be on Ecosystem-based management in future
 - Regional ocean governance efforts
- Improved interagency cooperation/coordination
- Approach will involve “Marine Spatial Planning” (MSP)
- Invigorated marine science and research enterprise
- Bob Gagosian will present a summary to the full board later this morning.

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 none-coastal environmental science.
- In strategic planning it was proposed to replace the "Distributed Coastal Laboratory" emphasis (which implies a tool) with an emphasis more directly focused on scientific outcome (which the tool can help to achieve).

Strategic Planning II: Emerging Trends & SURA's Roles

Discussion Leader: Larry Atkinson, Old Dominion University

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

- Coastal protection against rising sea level
- Climate change
- Ecosystem-based Management
- Marine Spatial Planning
- Increasing 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).
- Expand Committee Membership Accordingly
- Assemble a small working group to plan a SURA sponsored workshop aimed at identifying key “grand challenges” in transformational coastal and environmental research.
- The merits of pursuing support from foundations and philanthropic sources should be discussed with the Council of Presidents.