

**JOINT MEETING OF THE  
SURA<sup>®</sup> DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE SURA<sup>®</sup> RELATIONS  
COMMITTEE  
APRIL 7, 2009**

The meeting convened at approximately 1:20 PM.

The session began with a conversation with the members of SURA's Development and Relations Committees and Dr. Jim Decker, principal at Decker Garman Sullivan and Associates and former Acting Director and Principal Deputy Director of the Department of Energy Office of Science. Funding opportunities for energy research was the focus of the conversation.

Dr. Decker mentioned anticipated research solicitations on biomass and geothermal topics from DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) and suggested there may also be research funding opportunities in carbon sequestration and capture. Members discussed their schools' energy research initiatives and collaborations, including those in biomass, coal, and the Florida Energy Consortium. Some examples of other research collaborations were also discussed, including the formation of SURA's SCOOP program, the National Nanotechnology Initiative, and those through the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU).

Committee Members provided reviews of energy and research collaborations involving their universities. Most of the examples of collaboration were intrastate, in some instances as a result of mandates and funding from the state legislatures. A few of the collaborations crossed state borders or even regions of the country. Examples of energy research ranged from "deconstruction" processes to break down feed stocks, to refining and separation processes, to the efficient use of energy supplies, and the development of energy policies.

Dr. George Neil, the Associate Director of the Free-Electron Laser Division at the Jefferson Lab provided information and answered questions from the members of the committees regarding the free electron laser project that is being funded by the Office of Naval Research. SURA's support for the Free Electron Laser facility at the Jefferson Lab was discussed as were possible opportunities for SURA to participate in the Office of Naval Research FEL program.

The members of the committees were provided updates regarding possible research collaborations, intellectual property policies, the SURA Venture Forum, the upcoming SURA Terahertz Symposium, and the SURA Energy Community Forum by SURA staff.

The process for the selection of the SURA Distinguished Scientist Award was discussed.

## **Decisions/Recommendations of the Committees**

1. The Committees agreed to proposed modifications to the nomination and selection process for the SURA Distinguished Scientist Award, including the elimination of the provision that nominations remain open for two additional years.
2. The Committees agreed to forward a motion on for Board approval that would authorize the President to continue discussions with all relevant stakeholders regarding the establishment of a free electron laser facility proximate to the Jefferson Lab.

## **Action Items**

To further explore energy research collaborations between SURA and its Members, the members of the committees agreed to:

1. Host a workshop on energy technologies to identify topics of interest for research collaboration
2. Use the findings of the workshop to prepare a white paper articulating collaborative strengths as the basis for seeking research sponsorship

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:05 PM.