

Charge to Education and Outreach Standing Committee

Approved by CUAHSI Executive Committee, April 25, 2011

BACKGROUND

As part of its strategic planning process, CUAHSI developed an approach to meet the education and outreach aspects of its mission. The strategic plan was adopted by the CUAHSI Board of Directors in December 2010. The role of the standing committee is to evaluate progress toward the objectives outlined in the adopted strategic plan, and to review strategies and activities for implementation of the plan.

CHARGE

The Standing Committee for Education and Outreach shall

- a) review existing CUAHSI and CUAHSI-affiliated projects to determine if they are fulfilling CUAHSI's education and outreach mission and the specific objectives and actions as outlined in CUAHSI's strategic plan (Appendices 1 and 2) and suggest ways in which those activities can better meet those needs,
- b) evaluate prospective new activities and how these activities would align with CUAHSI's strategic plan,
- c) prioritize as requested CUAHSI's Education and Outreach activities for the upcoming year.

The committee shall receive in advance of their meeting, no later than May, 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, an annual briefing document containing the information needed to execute their charge, and a request consisting of a list of the activities to be prioritized. The document may also contain other questions or items on which the Board requests comment.

The committee shall produce a written report in response to the annual briefing document, containing the committee's reviews, evaluations and comments, to be submitted to the CUAHSI Board of Directors, for their review, by June 30, 2011, and annually thereafter.

COMPOSITION/MEMBERSHIP

The E&O Standing Committee will consist of no fewer than five members in the fields of water science and science education. Committee members will be appointed by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee of the Board acting in its place. The committee shall have a chair initially appointed by the Board for one year. In subsequent years, the Chair shall be elected by the committee.

TERM

Members of the E&O Standing Committee will serve for a term not to exceed three years. The committee membership terms will be staggered with a target of no less than two continuing members each year.

MEETINGS

This committee will meet annually, and as necessary to complete its charge.

RESIGNATION

Any member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Chair, the Vice Chair, the President or Secretary of the Corporation. Such resignation shall take effect at the time of receipt of the notice, or at any later time specified therein.

VACANCIES

Any vacancy in the E&O Standing Committee may be filled for the duration of the remaining term by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee acting on its behalf.

REMOVAL

Any member of the E&O Standing Committee may be removed at any time either with or without cause by vote of the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee acting on its behalf.

APPENDIX 1:
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS IDENTIFIED IN CUAHSI'S STRATEGIC
PLAN

(p. 18,21)

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The next generation of water scientists must be well-educated in order to confront the complexities of future water issues. Our members are directly involved with graduate and undergraduate education and can also contribute content for K-12 education. In addition, given the societal importance of water, key results from the academic water science community must be conveyed to the general public and policy makers at all levels of government.

1. Host and organize learning materials for all education levels, including courses, topical modules, laboratory exercises, and videos, that incorporate new research and encourage broad interest in environmental science
2. Support member university workshops for local water science teacher training
3. Survey, document, and articulate national needs for education on water science and sustainability
4. Participate in international capacity-building activities in water science
5. Build an online directory for access to local water experts
6. Provide training for water scientists to communicate more effectively with the public and with policy makers
7. Raise public awareness of water issues by communicating objective, scientific findings to non-academic audiences, including Congress, government agencies, citizen's groups.

APPENDIX 2:
CUAHSI MISSION STATEMENT

CUAHSI enables the university water science community to advance understanding of the central role of water to life, Earth, and society. CUAHSI focuses on water from bedrock to atmosphere, from summit to sea and from the geologic past, through the present and into the future. CUAHSI will support this community to advance water science and to improve societal well-being by:

- developing, supporting, and operating research infrastructure
- improving and promoting access to data, information and models
- articulating and advocating priorities for community level water-related research and observations
- facilitating interactions among the diverse water research community
- promoting interdisciplinary education centered in water science
- translating scientific advancements into effective tools for water management and policy.