

Charge to the Research Applications Standing Committee

Adopted by the Executive Committee, April 25, 2011

BACKGROUND

CUAHSI's mission statement reads, in part, that CUAHSI "will... advance water science and improve societal well-being by... translating scientific advancements into effective tools for water management and policy." As part of its strategic planning process, CUAHSI developed a translational science approach to meet these aspects of its mission. The strategic plan was adopted by the CUAHSI Board of Directors in December 2010. The role of the standing committee on research applications is to evaluate progress toward the objectives outlined in the adopted strategic plan and CUAHSI's engagement with the practitioner community, and to review strategies and activities for implementation of the plan.

CHARGE

The Research Applications Standing Committee shall:

- a) review existing CUAHSI and CUAHSI-affiliated projects to determine if they are fulfilling CUAHSI's translational science 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 research applications activities for the upcoming year.

The committee shall receive in advance of their meeting, but 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 Research Applications Standing Committee will consist of no fewer than five members in the fields of hydrologic science and related engineering and science fields. 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 Research Applications 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 at least annually and may meet 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 Research Applications 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 Research Applications 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

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TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

Given the dual challenges of population growth and climate change, there is a critical need to improve the ways in which water resources are used and managed. Research in water science is essential to such improvement. To be most effective, the water science community must evaluate the current modes of translating science into practice, and make improvements where needed.

The biomedical science community recently concluded that human health has not optimally benefitted from the traditional practice of biomedical science. In response, the National Institutes for Health is supporting a national consortium of research institutions designed to transform how biomedical research is conducted. The goals of this program are “to speed the translation of laboratory discoveries into treatments for patients, to engage communities in clinical research efforts, and to train a new generation of clinical and translational researchers” (<http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/>).

Clearly the water science community needs to better understand the needs and opportunities for translational science relating to water use and management. To these ends CUAHSI will:

1. Conduct a scientific national survey of water managers, regulators, practitioners, and scientists to determine the needs and opportunities for translational research in the water sciences
2. Conduct a series of national and regional workshops to explore activities that CUAHSI could undertake to advance translational science in hydrology.

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.