

Charge to the Synthesis Standing Committee

Adopted by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors February 9, 2010

BACKGROUND

Synthesis has been identified as one of the four fundamental areas for CUAHSI to pursue since its inception. As used by CUAHSI, “synthesis” refers to a mode of research in which extant data are brought together to address questions which may differ from those for which the data was originally intended. Typically, synthesis activities include scientists from a range of disciplines. A technical report, written in 2004, laid out the need for a National Synthesis Center (<http://www.cuahsi.org/docs/doi/CUAHSI-TR5.pdf>). A proposal for such a center was unsuccessful, but two “synthesis activities” were chosen in 2006. Lessons learned from these projects should inform the future directions CUAHSI will take in advancing synthesis in the hydrologic and related sciences.

CHARGE

The Synthesis Standing Committee recommends to the CUAHSI Board on the objectives and policies that CUAHSI should adopt with respect to the synthesis mode of research. In addition, the committee may recommend activities that the consortium should undertake or should seek funding to undertake. The foremost responsibility of the committee is that the needs of the academic research community are met by the objectives and policies that CUAHSI adopts and by the activities it undertakes.

The Synthesis Standing Committee shall review and comment on the “Status and Outlook for Synthesis” report that shall be prepared annually by the CUAHSI staff and delivered to the Committee each January. The Committee shall submit their review by April 1. The comments should focus on the proposed near-term approach to advancing synthesis science for the hydrologic science community and address the following questions:

1. Is the proposed strategy for supporting synthesis science appropriate or, if not, what other strategies should be considered?
2. Is the role of CUAHSI, as defined in this report, an appropriate role for it to take or how should that role be modified?
3. Has the proposed strategy adequately considered potential funding sources or what other funding sources should be considered?
4. Does the proposed strategy best serve the academic research community whom CUAHSI represents or how should it be modified to better serve the community?

In special consideration of the development of a Strategic Plan occurring during the year 2010, the Committee shall also review a draft version of CUAHSI’s Strategic Plan, which will be delivered by May 17, 2010. The committee’s review must be delivered by July 1, 2010.

COMPOSITION/MEMBERSHIP

The Synthesis Standing Committee will consist of no fewer than five members in the fields of hydrologic science and related scientific disciplines or otherwise have special expertise in inter- or multidisciplinary research. The committee will have a Chair initially appointed by the Board of Directors, but the Committee, if it so chooses, may elect a Chair from its membership.. Committee members will be appointed by the Board of Directors or the Executive Committee of the Board acting in its place.

TERM

Members of the Synthesis 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 shall convene annually and may meet more frequently 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 Synthesis 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 Synthesis 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.