



# CUAHSI

universities allied for water research

## CUAHSI Board Meeting Minutes

*May 28, 2019*

### Roll Call

- 11 members are present, 10 needed for quorum
- “X” indicates Director is present

### **Term expires 12/31/2019**

Elizabeth Boyer, Penn State University X

Michael Gooseff, University of Colorado X

David Hyndman, Michigan State University

Holly Michael, University of Delaware X

Al Valocchi, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign X

### **Term expires 12/31/2020**

John Albertson, Cornell University

Amir AghaKouchak, University of California-Irvine X

Jesus Gomez-Velez, New Mexico Technical University X

R. Edward Beighley, Northeastern University

### **Term expires 12/31/2021**

Gordon Grant, Oregon State University (Past Chair) X

Steve Loheide, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Chair Elect) X

Jeanne VanBriesen, Carnegie Mellon University (Chair) X

Gretchen Miller, Texas A&M University X

Alejandro Flores, Boise State University X

Greg Characklis, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

### **Officers & Staff Present:**

Jerad Bales, Audrey Sawyer (Treasurer)

Minutes prepared by Sawyer and Adam Ward

29-May-2019

12:0) EDT Call to Order

1. Executive Director Report
  - a. Bales reported that he has received official notice from NSF that the renewal proposal was approved, with a starting date of 5/17/19. One modification is the reporting cycle was changed to annual reports (vs. current semi-annual reporting). Overall the budget is up by 20-25% over 2018,. Bales also reported much positive feedback from the community on the proposal and throughout the process.
  - b. Bales reported Danielle Tijerina is returning to grad school and Liza Brazil was recruited to another position including a substantial increase in pay. Plans are underway for restaffing.
2. Board Chair Report
  - a. VanBriesen is actively working to gather feedback from non-PhD granting institutions about their interest in membership and how they take advantage of current CUAHSI services.
3. Training and courses
  - a. Elizabeth (Liz) Tran (community relations specialist at CUAHSI) provided a presentation on training courses, including participant diversity. Liz has been giving increased attention to reducing CUAHSI costs so that more classes can held with the same amount of funding s. She travels to workshops (9 in 2019) and spends about 1 week coordinating each. Currently there are no strategic themes for choosing workshop topics, but CUAHSI strives to respond to community interests (i.e. drones) as they arise. Liz reaches out to potential instructors based on community-driven interests.
  - b. Travel grants, which are based on funding and student requests were down a bit in 2018 due to a variety of factors (shorter registration window due to delayed workshop approval, more professional participants who aren't eligible for grants, etc)
  - c. The overall percentage of women participants during 2016-2018 was 42%, There is a goal to increase female participation. Women instructors are underrepresented too—unclear how this compares with demographics of CUAHSI members because we do not survey this information.
4. Update on Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (Item 5 on Agenda):
  - a. Committee formed. They have received charge from the Board. Draft strategic plan has been requested for fall in order to support NSF reporting timelines.

Jeanne will provide an update on progress in July at the face-to-face summer board meeting.

5. Policy on Signing Letters of Support (e.g., letters to legislative or executive offices regarding various issues.)
  - a. Jerad reached out to Holly Barnard at NSF. NSF does not support lobbying using federal funds.
  - b. CUAHSI's 501(c)(3) tax status does not allow us to dedicate a substantial amount of our time to lobbying.
  - c. CUAHSI is not allowed to do anything that qualifies as lobbying with federal funds but membership funds do not have the same constraint.
  - d. VanBriesen reported that the executive committee had extensive discussion of all factors and did not establish a clear consensus or offer uniform advice to the Board on whether we should have a policy on the matter.
  - e. As an example, Penn State does not consider it lobbying if there is no financial request or specific ask to vote a certain way. People at Penn State can still express general support for funding for science.
  - f. While signing letters does not appear to constitute lobbying, the Executive committee expressed concern about the optics.
  - g. The Board will continue this discussion at a future meeting.
6. New Business
  - a. Loheide requested Board members arrive by 5pm the evening before the July 2019 face-to-face in Madison, WI for a social event with the water resources community on that campus.
  - b. VanBriesen opened the floor to any other business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

13:00 EDT    Adjourned