CUAHSI Board Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2016

Roll Call

- 11 members are present, 10 needed for quorum
- "**X**" indicates Director is present

Term expires 12/31/2016

Michael Gooseff, Colorado State University

David Hyndman, Michigan State University (Chair) **X**

Holly Michael, University of Delaware

Todd Rasmussen, University of Georgia

Al Valocchi, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (past-Chair) **X**

Term expires 12/31/2017

Erkan Istanbulluoglu, University of Washington **X**

D. Scott Mackay, SUNY University at Buffalo **X**

Kamini Singha, Colorado School of Mines **X**

Scott Tyler, University of Nevada, Reno

Term expires 12/31/2018

Matt Cohen, University of Florida **X**

David Genereux, North Carolina State University (Chair-elect) **X**

Gordon Grant, Oregon State University **X**

Erich Hester, Virginia Tech **X**

Steve Loheide, University of Wisconsin-Madison **X**

Jeanne VanBriesen, Carnegie Melon University **X**

Officers & Staff Present: Adam Ward (Secretary), Rick Hooper (CUAHSI)

Minutes prepared by Adam Ward

Wednesday, May 4, 2016
13:00 EST   Call to Order

1. Status of April 2016 BoD minutes (Ward)
   a. Ward reported minutes from April 2016 have been finalized and action without meeting to approve has been requested. Ward asked that BoD members make a timely vote on this.
2. Information Items
   a. Status of Executive Director Search (Valocchi)
      i. Valocchi reported that he is working with Hyndman, Genereux, and Hooper to schedule in-person interviews. He hopes to include an open forum for BoD members to attend.
      ii. Hyndman and Valocchi discussed working with the BoD to schedule times and dates to maximize attendance. The group tentatively scheduled early afternoon (13:30 EST) on 1-3 June 2016.
   b. Status of Board Structure DIscussion
      i. Hooper reported that he met with Hyndman, Genereux, Valocchi, and Cohen to discuss the future board structure. The group is working to evaluate the composition of the board over the past. One benefit to the large BoD is the representation of a broad spectrum of career stages, geographies, specializations of the BoD. Hooper is working to assemble a summary of BoD for the next ExCom meeting.
   c. Status of Senior Management Structure
      i. Hooper has been working on several possible organizational structures. He will summarize these for the ExCom to discuss at a future meeting.
3. Instrumentation Standing Committee
   a. Instrumentation Discovery Travel Grants
      i. Hooper reported that 11 IDTG proposals were received by the standing committee, of which funding has been budgeted for 10 across two grant cycles (one Spring, one Fall). He discussed the possibility of reserving funds for the future. The group generally agreed that the top 5 proposals should be funded, with the second group of 5 reserved for the next call.
   b. Suggestions for new members
      i. Hester requested that the group contact him with ideas of members for the Instrumentation Standing Committee. He is seeking committee members to engage with the committee and its activities. Core activities for this committee include the IDTG grants, coordination of training courses, and strategic planning for CUAHSI instrumentation activities.
4. CUAHSI Training
   a. Review of business model for training courses
      i. Hooper summarized the general business model for training classes. In the past, course instructors have not been compensated for their time, but their travel has been covered. Soft-money employees (e.g., technicians) and USGS employees have been compensated for their time if this training was not part of their regular responsibilities.

  ii. The group discussed the possibility of funding for instructors to be used to compensate instructors. Hooper noted that most CUAHSI funds for the grants are used for student travel grants rather than instructor compensation.

  iii. Singha suggested that the funds available for each course be part of the course proposal, leaving the allocation (compensation for instructors, student travel grants, facility costs, etc.) to the course instructors.

b. Proposal for virtual CUAHSI University (Loheide)

  i. Loheide presented an opportunity for hydrologists to coordinate in offering specialized hydrology courses (*.ppt archived with Meeting Minutes). In summary, the proposed CUAHSI helping to coordinate collaborative teaching of specialized hydrology modules across CUAHSI member institutions, including academic credit for students.

  ii. Hooper asked about opportunities for students to audit courses. Loheide suggested audits could be at the discretion of the instructors.

  iii. Grant asked what the demand is for this type of structure. Loheide suggested access to local courses at home institutions would be a likely predictor of interest (where more availability at your institution might be related to less interest). Hyndman suggested that getting training from experts in your discipline and networking would lead to high popularity.

  iv. Singha asked about the burdens of increased time commitments (grading, office hours) relative to the recognized institutional benefits. The group discussed packaging credits together such that 3 instructors might each have 3 times the enrollment, but only teach one credit.

  v. Van Briesen asked about the role of CUAHSI in this, wondering if CUAHSI would be seeking funding for this program. Hooper reported that CUAHSI would coordinate a relationship for the infrastructure required, such as a contract with BlackBoard. He also indicated that, if successful, a CUAHSI staff member could help coordinate this and manage course licensure. The group also discussed the potential of applying for funds, but perhaps piloting the program within a small number of institutions as a proof-of-concept.

  vi. The group discussed how this could be implemented in combination with the offerings of traditional courses by participating faculty members. Loheide noted the role of CUAHSI would be to help organize and coordinate these offerings. Valocchi suggested that, in general, this would likely be an overload for instructors. Loheide suggested that this could be worked into teaching loads for some instructors. Valocchi suggested this would be possibly listed as an independent study rather than with an official course title and approval. Hyndman suggested this as an "Advanced Topics" course as a way to readily get participants. He noted this would require coordination with department chairs, but would be acceptable.

  vii. Cohen asked about timing and synchronization between institutions, with varied semester schedules and quarter schedules. He also noted CUAHSI as a hub would be ideal for technology, as most institutions use

different software tools. Van Briesen agreed that these hurdles existed in some of her past experience with an NSF IGERT project, but noted that the challenges were surmountable.

      viii. Grant suggested that his past experience is that there is a large logistical and developmental burden. He noted that a pilot would require careful planning, and that CUAHSI staff support would be critical to the success of the program.

      ix. The group discussed the potential for Broader Impacts opportunities as part of grant proposals.

      x. In summary, the group was generally supportive of this idea and encouraged Loheide to move forward. Loheide requests comments or suggestions by email.

5. Motion to adjourn
    a. Motion: Hyndman
    b. Second: Tyler
    c. Discussion: (none)
    d. Vote: Approved (unanimous)

14:00 EST   Adjourn