

GIS Council

MINUTES

04/26/21 3:15pm

Virtual meeting on Teams

Attendees: S. Appel, S. Borchert, A. Forati, D. Genzmer, R. Holifield, B. Ketter, R. Schneider, P. Vepraskas, N. Weber, C. Wu, Z. Xu, F. Yang

Meeting called to order 3:22 pm

1. March 10, 2020 Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Student Topics/Concerns/ GIS Club: Update

S. Appel provided the update. The club has been relatively inactive while most of campus is remote. Elections are planned. There is ongoing discussion on where to store valuable items and office supplies. Valuables will probably be stored at AGSL as arranged by S. Appel. D. Genzmer will discuss with Geography about potential space in Geography for office supplies. P. Vepraskas repeated his interest in working with the club to get the drone flying (requires insurance and a licensed pilot).

3. GIS Council (2020-2021)

3.1. Transfers of responsibilities was determined by group discussion. B. Ketter will be Chair of the GIS Council and maintain the gis@uwm.edu email list. S. Appel will be Treasurer and have signature authority over the GIS Council 136 and Foundation Accounts. S. Appel will take the lead on the GIS Council website with help from N. Weber and B. Ketter.

S. Appel will be the Esri Site License, technology expert, co-lead with F. Yang, UWM Software and Asset Management Team, with additional input from P. Vepraskas regarding teaching needs. K. Meingast will be made an admin in ArcGIS Online (AGOL).

S. Appel will continue as GIS Club advisor with the possibility of an additional advisor. Mention was made of advisors for Gamma Theta Upsilon, the Geography Honor Society. There must be an advisor who is also a member. S. Appel is not currently a member but has been serving as an unofficial advisor. R. Holifield expressed interest in becoming a member so as to assume the official advisor role.

Wisconsin Middle School/High School ArcGIS Online Map Competition sponsorship will transfer to Howard Veregin, Wisconsin State Cartographer, who previously expressed interest. Many GIS Council members expressed interest in judging in the future.

Additional GIS email lists may be transferred to the Geography Department, R. Holifield for the time-being.

3.2. The Council discussed a common ArcGIS version for campus computer labs for next year. B. Ketter will take the lead, submitting this annually to IT Classroom Support, at the end of spring semester. The most current versions of ArcGIS Desktop and ArcGIS Pro will be requested. Discussion included making QGIS available in the same manner and it was deemed to be more complicated to specify versions. Individual instructors should address this if the usage increases in the future.

3.3. D. Genzmer reported on the status of the 2021 EdTech Proposal -- Campus GIS web server. It should renew automatically but needs monitoring. Eventually an annual report will be requested, most likely from S. Pedrick. B. Ketter will take responsibility for this in the future. D. Genzmer will provide him with past reports as a template.

3.4. A long discussion ensued about continued membership in University Consortium on Geospatial Information Science (UCGIS). To what extent does campus benefit from membership. In recent years, academic staff has participated more than faculty. Should UWM membership change to a level other than standard? These funds might be better used to subsidize student travel to GIS meetings such as the EsriUC. No decision was made. More discussion is needed. See attachment for UCGIS membership levels and benefits.

3.5. D. Genzmer provided an overview of the GIS Council funds occurred during the discussion of transferring signature authority. Less funds were raised during virtual GIS Day but less funds were expended as well. S. Appel noted that starting next fiscal year, UWM will restrict awards to students at \$500 and above. Appel relayed that it costs ~\$250 in staff time to process an award for an international student.

3.6. D. Genzmer reported that the 2021 EsriUC will be virtual and the campus community is eligible for complimentary admissions. UWM is eligible for 3 complimentary admissions, when not virtual, and can request additional complimentary admissions from other UWSYSTEM campuses if unused.

- 3.7. D. Genzmer gave a quick update GIS Day 2021 attendance. The event was virtual and had 160 individual registrants. Recordings are posted on the website.
- 3.8. Wisconsin Middle School/High School ArcGIS Online Map Competition is ongoing, hosted this year by UWM and LearnDeep Milwaukee - <https://arcg.is/98quP>
4. The next meeting will be convened by B. Ketter. S. Appel expressed the need to discuss the timing of the next GIS Day when deciding the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Donna G. Genzmer, GISP

Attachment A: UCGIS Membership Materials

UCGIS Membership types	Annual dues	
Standard	\$2,000.00	
Basic	\$ 750.00	
multi-campus ¹	\$2,250.00	divided between campuses

¹ UW-Madison is a member. Might they be interested in a multi-campus membership?

Value Proposition & Benefits of Membership²

The University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) is a non-profit scientific and educational organization comprised of 60+ member and affiliate institutions. It was established in 1995 to advance research in the field of Geographic Information Science, expand and strengthen multidisciplinary Geographic Information Science education, and advocate policies for the promotion of the ethical use of and access to geographic information and technologies, by building and supporting scholarly communities and networks. UCGIS is the hub for the GIS research and education community in higher education in the United States, and serves as a national and international voice to advocate for its members' interests.

Institutional membership in UCGIS provides many benefits, described in detail below and available for download ([pdf, last updated January 2020](#)). Looking for a quick membership overview? Here's a simple member benefits flyer ([pdf, last updated April 2019](#)).

Research, Teach, and Learn in the Geospatial Sciences

- **Specialized training and career-enhancement for graduate students and junior faculty.** For example, in [2017](#) and [2019](#), we held week-long NSF-supported Summer Schools focused on building practical experiences working with CyberGIS at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and work in teams to address problems across themes of big data and reproducibility and replicability, among others. Each time, over 30 graduate students and early career scholars received \$2000 grants to enable their participation. Currently pending proposals would continue to fund these programs over the next five years.
- **Open access to analytical functionality of the BoK.** As its steward, we maintain and publish the one and only [Geographic Information Science & Technology Body of Knowledge](#) (GIS&T BoK). This resource for students, educators, and professionals documents the core knowledge for our discipline and serves as a comprehensive touchstone for our dynamic discipline. Upcoming enhancements will support digitally-enabled design and planning of courses and curricula, and enable evaluation of professional readiness and job qualifications.
- **Contributing to the next generations of geospatial science**, nationally and globally. We help scholars and educators from our member institutions engage with both basic and applied research. For example, the [Open Knowledge Network for Spatial Decision Support](#) is another recently funded NSF project with which UCGIS is involved. The GIS&T BoK plays a role here too as we demonstrate its utility across numerous application areas.
- **Opportunities to leverage our network and expertise.** We collaborate with our institutional members and partners on grant proposals ([info here, pdf](#)). Our areas of expertise, national reach, and low overhead rates contribute well to ideas that seek expanded capacity and a wide scope.

Experience Geospatial Professional Development

² <https://www.ucgis.org/membership-in-ucgis> viewed on 4/28/2021

- **Front-of-the-line access to and knowledge about our programs.** For example, in 2017 UCGIS and the University of Maine received a generous grant from the National Science Foundation for a 40-month program of professional development activities and resource-development for women in the geospatial sciences, titled [TRELIS \(Training and Retaining Leaders in STEM-Geospatial Sciences\)](#). The first TRELIS workshop was held in [May 2018 in Madison, Wisconsin](#), the second took place in [June 2019 in Washington, D. C.](#), and the third [is being held virtually during 2020-21](#). We make sure to announce such opportunities early and often to our member institutions.
- **Free registrations to our webinars.** Through our [ongoing Webinar series](#), we offer timely knowledge and inspiration about a diverse range of relevant geospatial topics, and some are open *only* to members.
- **Free registration to our workshops.** Our pre- and post-Symposium Workshops are always available at no charge to those from member institutions who attend our Symposium.
- **Open channels of communication to remain current and voice your opinions on national and international fronts.** We are actively engaged with a variety of national geospatial organizations, such as the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations ([COGO](#)) and the GIS Certification Institute ([GISCI](#)), so that we can monitor current trends and identify key issues that will impact our community, and provide our members with access to voice their opinions to key stakeholders, for topics such as the [Geospatial Data Act of 2018](#). Worldwide, we coordinate [Memoranda of Understanding with sister geospatial organizations](#), such as the Association of Geographic Information Labs in Europe ([AGILE](#)), the Open Source Geospatial Foundation ([OSGeo](#)), the International Cartographic Association ([ICA](#)), the Australasian Spatial Information Education and Research Association ([ASIERA](#)), and [YouthMappers](#).

Connect, Network, and Be Recognized within the Higher Education GIScience Community

- **Enjoy heavily discounted registration fees for our events.** At our annual [Symposia](#), participants share and learn around diverse GIScience topics that are particularly timely and relevant for our higher education community, and the collegial environment is optimal for networking.
- **Begin your career by being seen, heard, and honored.** During the Symposia, we highlight the scholarly achievements of students from UCGIS member institutions, offering **Student Scholarship Awards**. In 2020, [five students received awards for their posters at the Symposium](#).
- **Eligibility to make nominations for prestigious Awards.** We recognize leaders in GIScience through our series of hallmark [annual Awards \(Education, Research, and Carolyn Merry Mentoring\)](#), and our [UCGIS Fellows Program](#). Scholars worldwide are eligible recipients, but nominations can come only from within our member and partnership community.
- **Free posting of announcements, job ads, and other targeted information our website and via our list-serve.** Non-members pay \$200/posting for this service.
- **Develop and display leadership skills at the national level.** Our [Board of Directors, Officers, and Committee members](#) are elected or appointed positions held by individuals from our numerous member universities, and the GIS&T BoK's Editorial Team is comprised almost entirely of UCGIS-affiliated scholars. Being a member of our leadership team is an unequalled opportunity for recognized service to our discipline.

Our activities are possible because of our member institutions, and in turn we enable the faculty, academic staff, and students of our member institutions to participate and contribute. Our size allows us to be both flexible and responsive in support of our members, while our scope reaches throughout the geospatial academic community in higher education. Have your voice be heard within that community by being part of the UCGIS network.

How do Basic, Full, and Affiliates Memberships differ?³

- The traditional, flagship UCGIS membership is a **Full** one, designed for an academic institution, organization, or society as a whole. With Full memberships, any individual affiliated with the entity, from any school, department, or program, are all eligible to participate in UCGIS activities and partake of UCGIS representation. This includes all faculty, staff, administrators, and students. Institutions holding Full memberships typically have GIS&T education and research taking place within multiple Schools, Departments, and Programs across their campus. Full members have unlimited access to UCGIS resources, and are entitled to two (2) votes by their designated Delegates on matters of UCGIS interest and concern. Dues for Full Members are \$2000/year.
- A **Basic** membership, designed for a single Department, Program, or School within an institution, is an option when a Full membership is not possible. This category accommodates institutions with GIS&T education and research limited to one School, Department, or Program, and may be suitable for a smaller institution overall. Basic members have full access to UCGIS resources and are entitled to designate one (1) voting Delegate. Dues for Basic Members are \$750/year.
- **Affiliate** members may participate in UCGIS activities, and are entitled to many UCGIS resources and benefits, such as serving on committees. However, Affiliate representatives may not vote or hold elected office. Dues for Affiliate Members vary and are set by the Board of Directors.

Several universities within our state-wide system are interested in being members. Is there a way to make that happen that takes advantage of our existing administrative connections?

We have a **multi-campus** category of membership that fits this situation, and have [formal guidelines](#) that explain how this works across the institutions. Once you've read through the guidelines, give us a call or send us an email if you have other questions about this membership category.

³ Excerpted from <https://www.ucgis.org/membership-faq> viewed on 4/28/2021