

**MINUTES OF USUCGER BOARD MEETING  
CONFERENCE CALL  
AUGUST 5, 2010**

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ali Maher-President, Marte Gutierrez-Treasurer, Chris Baxter-Secretary, Amy Cerato, Jeff Evans, Chris Meehan

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ken Stokoe

**ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS:** Matt Evans-Webmaster, Alan Macnab - GeoCoalition

**MEETING COMMENCED AT 3:30 P.M. EDT.**

**AGENDA:**

1. Welcome new members
2. Collaboration with Geo-Coalition
3. Membership Dues
4. Student Awards Program
5. Geo-Congress 2012 – USUCGER – Research Activities Conference
6. Potential revision of the Board Election protocol
7. Web site improvements

**1. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

President Ali Maher welcomed our two new members to the USUCGER Board: Jeffrey Evans from Bucknell University (senior member) and Christopher Meehan from the University of Delaware (junior member).

**2. COLLABORATION WITH GEOCOALITION**

Alan Macnab, President of the GeoCoalition, spoke to the UBoard about developing closer collaboration between the GeoCoalition and USUCGER. The membership of the GeoCoalition includes the ADSC, AEG, ASFE, DFI, GI, PDCA, as well as USUCGER. Its primary purpose is to find areas of mutual cooperation between the members.

There was a discussion about trying to link consultants, contractors, and researchers together to work on practice-oriented research projects and case studies. One potential idea presented is to have practitioners with interesting data from projects submit requests to USUCGER and have a committee link those practitioners with interested faculty members. Ali and Chris Meehan will prepare a white paper about how to implement this idea.

**3. MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Treasurer Marte Gutierrez reported on the collection of dues from the membership. There is an approximately 85% collection rate, with 51 of 328 members not having paid yet. This translates into 16 institutions that haven't paid. August 18 is the deadline to pay dues

and Marte will begin removing members after that date. Marte will send the UBoard the list of 16 unpaid institutions and we will contact them individually.

There was a discussion about the problem of unpaid dues. Chris Meehan suggested that it might be easier to collect dues for longer periods of time (e.g. 5 years) and Jeff Evans suggested that if this continues to be a problem then maybe the UBoard should consider adjusting the dues scale (e.g. provide a discount for larger programs).

#### **4. STUDENT AWARDS PROGRAM**

Webmaster Matt Evans is willing to manage the Student Awards Program for one or two more years until it is running smoothly and then hand it over to the education committee. Matt will send out an announcement to the membership regarding this year's award program.

#### **5. GEO-CONGRESS 2012: RESEARCH ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE**

Ali has begun communicating with Dimitrios Zekkos about how the Research Activities Conference will fit in with the organization of the conference.

#### **6. POTENTIAL REVISION OF UBOARD ELECTION PROTOCOL**

There was a discussion about streamlining the UBoard election process. Specifically it was felt that the formation of a 5 person nominating committee to solicit candidates for the annual election takes too long. Chris Baxter and Ali will work on possibly eliminating this step to speed up the election process.

#### **7. WEB SITE IMPROVEMENTS**

Matt reminded the UBoard that we were to check on outsourcing the web site specifically for automating the dues payment, although several improvements in the web interface for paying dues have been made. There was a discussion on ways to improve both the content and format of the website.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 4:30 P.M. E.D.T.**