**2014 Geographic Information Systems & Science specialty group business meeting**

2014 GISS Specialty Group Business Meeting

Chair: John Rogan

Vice-chair: Dan Goldberg

Treasurer and Secretary: Ryan Burns

Student Representative: Somayeh Dodge

John Rogan - introduces himself

AAG representative talks about new program on N Africa, Middle East

Approval of 2013 meeting minutes

-We discussed framework and motives behind specialty group. What are we doing, and how can we get more participation from our members?

-Asks for motion to approve last years minutes

-motion

-approved (multiple for each of these)

Distinguished career award recipient

Matt Duckham, Associate Professor at University of Melbourne

Robert T. Aangeenbrug Award going to Gerry Rushton

There were lots of support letters for his reception of this award.

Student awards (presented by Somayeh Dodge)

There were 14 submissions this year

Papers were all very good

The committee selected 5 top finalists

-reads names

-Kam-ping Sing [?] from National University of Singapore

-Jay Yang from San Diego State University

-Weibo Liu from university of kansas

-David Lamb from University of South Florida

-Menquiang Zhang

-Very good session yesterday - presented winners' papers

-Passed around papers and selected two winners

-Menquiang Zhang

-David Lamb from University of South Florida

-Before student paper award, sent out a survey

-Are respondents happy with the process of selecting a student paper?

-Many are satisfied.

-Many would like to accept advisers and co-authors

-In the future the GISS SG will allow co-authored papers

-(John): last year's session where student papers were presented was not very well attended. so we moved the time and attendance was better this year.

-In the past the GIS paper award session was something grad students wanted to attend, so he tried to improve it this year.

-(Libby): the aag needs a better strategy for organizing that.

-(John): giving people some selection was good.

-(somayeh): the first was well-attended, second was not. Second might have overlapped with another session.

-To clarify process: the committee selected five finalists. we were having a discussion about the sixth, but the student's paper was a bit late. that's why we had to exclude that, or we would have had six finalists. From the 14 papers, we selected 5, and then 2 from five.

-The GISS SG had a second session, and would have had 5 but there weren't enough people there.

-(Dan): low attendence is common at the AAG. That doesn't mean there wasn't interest.

-I like having the GIS students together because they can meet each other.

-(John): we can always cancel a second session later.

-(Somayeh): why don't we send out a data challenge?

-(Ryan): Floating Sheep already has something like this.

-(Dan): maybe they could collaborate? A competition between GISS SG, Iron Sheep, and Cyberinfrastructure SG

-Kind of like SIG-SPATIAL

-Do we need to vote on that?

-(John): we can check with constituency

Election results (Powerpoint)

-John is outgoing chair, hopes to keep being involved

-Incoming vice-chair: Diansheng Guo from University of South Carolina

-We didn't have much interest in the election. Not many nominations.

-Last year we had a discussion about this kind of thing vis-a-vis membership participation

-Incoming treasurer/secretary

-Xinuye Ye, Kent State

-(Libby): Participation issues should be taken to the national council

-One way of communication is the Knowledge Community

-Sheer volume of communication might have led to delete-happiness

-GISS is one of the biggest groups but participation is low, despite knowledge groups supposed to have improved

-(John): One issue Dan will raise with the constituency is how to communicate better, including perhaps polling the membership to see what needs to happen

-This could be a "reboot" for the specialty group

-Also, this is a broader issue than just the GISS specialty group

John: how we project ourselves as a specialty group

-Shows website - very outdated

-We need to get our website up to present ourselves better, increase participation.

-Dan volunteers his time to get this updated over the next year. It's very important. A website means a lot these days.

-A website gives a sense of history, gives the sense that our group is disjointed.

-We need to centralize and update. I.E., rules for nominating someone. What are the roles and responsibilities of committee members?

-John is putting together this document of roles and responsibilities right now.

Dan discusses lack of membership participation:

-Why does no one care at all? Are we not providing a value that they want or need? People are signing up, so there must be value.

-GIS sessions are well-attended, and people come to the AAG to participate in them.

-Send out a poll to our membership: are we providing services useful to our membership? If not, what should we do differently?

-Drupal to have a repository of data.

-At his university, Texas A&M, he has the capacity to host any number of websites.

-Poll: should we stream data from the Knowledge Communities?

-Asks the non-committee audience members why they attended.

-mostly to meet people interested in GIS (Dan notes lack of such people in the room)

-Somayeh: maybe because it's called "business meeting" people are turned off.

-maybe call it a "Business Meeting and GIS Meetup"

-Tobler (and other) lectures well attended - would it be possible to integrate

-(audience member) if integrating the other lectures is not allowed by AAG, maybe we could do a back-to-back thing

-volunteers to check with Oscar Larson

-That's his agenda: website, and increase participation

-John: it's really important.

-Dan: CyberGIS SG packed with students

-What's the distinction between CyberGIS and GIS SGs?

-Nobody is very clear

-AAG has too much going on

-Would it be possible to allow more than 3-5 specialty group affiliations?

-AAG is doing that.

-Maybe change the name to make it more appealing - a "rebranding" to show there's something actually happening in the group

-First Q on Dan's poll is going to be, "Why are you a member?"

-With proper IRB protocol, we could take the resulting listserve discussion into a paper

-Dan will get IRB approval to use poll for an article

-This has been done before

-Dan will begin this tomorrow.

Xinyue suggests Facebook, Dan suggests Drupal Commons

-Allows users to create their own groups, own discussions

-Drupal Commons is a widely-used platform

John calls the meeting to a close

-Thanks Somayeh, Ryan, Dan, Xinyue, and Diansheng