

ISU GIS Council

Meeting 1

3/1/12

12:00-1:00 PM

In Attendance:

John Kostelnick
Crystal Williams
Dave Malone
Jon Thayn
Eric Peterson
Lisa Tranel
Amy Bloom
Jackie Schneider

Jeff Walsh
Glen Sagers
James Wolf
Chris Grieschaber
Jin Jo
Dagmar Budikova
David Stern
Marissa McCord

Darrell Kruger
Mike O'Grady
Darcy Loy
Pat Healy
Missy Nergard
Eric Schuller

Welcome

Kostelnick welcomed everyone to the GIS Council and described the overall purpose of the Council: to advance the use of GIS across the ISU campus.

Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of how they are currently utilizing GIS or would like to use GIS in the future.

Current or future topics mentioned by attendees included:

- Administrative purposes
- Crime mapping
- Student mapping, college competitions, using Tapestry demographic data
- Geologic mapping
- Library data support, use of "Simply Map" software
- Criminal justice and public health
- Campus mapping, sustainability
- Alumni mapping projects
- Integration into renewable energy courses

Business Session

GIS Council Mission and Meeting Logistics

Kostelnick described the mission of the GIS Council and outlined logistics related to future GIS Council meetings (meeting format, time, etc.). Council meetings will be once every month at noon as a brown bag lunch. Council members agreed that alternating between the first

Thursday and Wednesday of the month would be advantageous to allow those with noon hour teaching schedules to attend. Each Council meeting will be divided into a Business Session and a Synergy Sharing Session.

A website for GIS Council meeting materials has been established at <http://geomap.illinoisstate.edu/GISCouncil.asp>

Powerpoint slides from the Business Session that outline logistics for future Council meetings will be posted online at the Council website.

The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, May 2 from 12-1 PM.

Challenges using GIS

Discussion ensued related to current challenges with GIS at ISU in order to define specific Council initiatives. The following topics were identified:

- Software licenses.

The high cost of renewal fees is a challenge to many departments and units, institutional support at a centralized level would alleviate some of this burden. It may be advantageous to pursue support as a collective group through the current college and university budgeting processes.

Council attendees agreed to start the process for exploring centralized licenses by compiling a spreadsheet of current costs by departments/units as well as anticipated future costs.

Kostelnick and Budikova will coordinate collection of software costs from departments/units.

- Curricular issues.

Some attendees mentioned the need for computer labs/software and IT support for teaching purposes. Virtual machines were suggested as an option to alleviate computer demand.

Malone mentions a General Education course in GIS that Geography-Geology will be proposing soon.

- Consulting services and student resources.

Resources for students are needed, including a means to create simple maps to compliment research and class projects.

- Need for a campus GIS database.

This may be included in the ISU Digital Measures project.

- GIS Councils on other campuses to serve as a model for ISU GIS Council.

Discussion ensued about how other universities centralize GIS. Yale, Oregon, and University California--San Diego were noted as examples with established, centralized GIS activities. It may be beneficial to contact these institutions in the future or to refer to their models of how GIS is structured at the institution.

Action Items for Next Meeting:

- Kostelnick and Budikova will develop a GIS resources inventory template for representatives from Departments/Units to complete. Items should include all expenses for GIS (e.g., associated with teaching, research, projects) that are current and also anticipated in the future (i.e., a "wish list" for the next 5-10 years). Also of interest is to gather information regarding the number of faculty/staff members with GIS expertise, especially if they are interested in using those skills in their teaching and research. Related software (e.g., remote sensing) should be included as well.
- Kostelnick will create a GIS list-serve for Council members and others interested in GIS initiatives on campus.
- Kostelnick will investigate current costs and services included in a campus-wide ESRI site license.