

Business meeting

Purpose: *How Should the WRPI Be Organized?*

- 1) Review/discuss WRPI *draft* Charter
 - a. strengths/weakness
 - b. is the Charter appropriate for the WRPI?
 - c. adopt/modify/reject Charter
- 2) Where do we go from here?
 - a. action plan
 - b. outcomes
 - c. timeline

ORGANIZATIONAL CHARTER DRAFT (03.19.09)

Background and Role of Water Resources and Policy Initiatives

At the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting in fall 2007, committee members expressed to Chancellor Reed their interest in seeing CSU's extensive applied research and education strengths being applied in the area of water resources and policy. The AAC encouraged the CSU to provide independent and well-informed research and policy analyses on water-related issues and policies for various agencies and stakeholder groups within the State of California. In October of 2007, the CSU Chancellor's office surveyed campuses to identify CSU faculty members with expertise in water-related issues and policies. More than 200 CSU faculty members with research and teaching assignments relating to water-related issues and policies were identified.

In early 2008, California State University (CSU) Chancellor Charles Reed announced the CSU system would begin a concerted effort by all campuses to collaborate system-wide resources on the subject of water. The goal of this effort is to organize the vast and wide-ranging knowledge and expertise of the CSU's 23 campuses to concentrate on addressing California's water challenges.

The establishment of the Water Resources and Policy Initiatives (WRPI) by Chancellor Reed is an effort to coordinate the many resources of the California State University system to help address California's water challenges. The timing of this effort appears to be good as State leadership has placed a priority on addressing the multitude of water issues. Launched on July 1, 2008, the Chancellor's office is supporting a half-time position for the Executive Director. The program administration is currently housed on the campus of Fresno State.

The WRPI envisions a long-term, sustainable water supply for California, made possible through education, research and policy development, serving agricultural, environmental and urban needs and interests.

Mission

The Water Resources and Policy Initiative (WRPI) marshals the capabilities and resources of the twenty-three California State University campuses to provide academic preparation, applied research, and policy development that addresses all aspects of water use. WRPI optimizes and links the many centers and programs of excellence within CSU on water issues. The scope of WRPI activities include:

- Provide critical faculty and staff based expertise to support California's need for appropriate and sustainable water resources in the 21st century;
- Promote education, training and professional capacity development with the water industry, governmental agencies, and the wider community;
- Develop new and advanced water technologies and services that will help drive economic development and job creation.

The WRPI enhances the universities' ability to attract exceptional students and faculty by providing a culture of collaboration and innovation within a multi-disciplinary water resources curriculum.

Key Goals

The goals listed below support the key elements in the WRPI mission. The goals reflect the CSU comparative advantage in addressing current and emerging statewide water issues. The WRPI will be a leading resource for:

Partnerships with the water industry and government agencies – WRPI will engage a broad group of water industry stakeholders and government agencies to leverage university resources to pursue the development of “good science” from which to base decision making and emerging water policy.

Education, training and professional capacity building – The WRPI will raise awareness on careers in water and develop academic pathways for the next generation of professionals to meet the needs of businesses, government officials, water professionals and the general public through outreach and training programs, professional capacity building, university curriculum development and formal post secondary and graduate education.

Technology and economic development – The WRPI will provide a strong scientific base and business development support to help commercialize new ideas in water industries, services and professions in California. The outcome will be a creative climate of innovation, furthering economic growth in water technology.

Membership of the Council

All campus sites are encouraged to become active in WRPI. The initial campuses included at startup in this effort currently are described in **Attachment 1**.

Additional Stakeholders

The WRPI will include representatives from other CSU campuses as interest is developed. Additionally, partnerships with the California Community College System and University of California system will be explored and included where appropriate. The water industry and State and Federal agencies will also be engaged to provide additional expertise, feedback, and input, into the coordination of the water curriculum education and training programs and initiatives under development.

Steering Committee

A steering committee for WRPI will be assembled to address day-to-day coordination of organizational activities, work planning, and scheduling. The membership will be on a voluntary basis and will consist of the

chairs of committees, key members of ad hoc projects, and other active participants. Communication of Steering Committee actions will be distributed to the general WRPI membership on a regular basis and archived to the CSU Chancellor's Office Web-site.

WRPI Education Goals

- a. Assess the breadth and width of water-related programs and curriculum; including types of degrees, programs, courses and faculty that teach in these areas.
- b. Improve the availability, access, quality and knowledge/skill areas in water education within the CSU system.
- c. Investigate what types of education/training/degrees are still needed and what types of workforce programs will be needed in the future.
- d. Strategize on how to achieve CSU education and learning objectives.

WRPI Research and External Grants Goals

- a. Identify common areas of faculty research and devise a mechanism to coordinate them for greater research collaboration.
- b. Work closely with Federal, State and other agencies to identify areas of common interest and grant/contract opportunities linking programs and projects with the CSU.
- c. Promote system-wide and multi-campus consortia grant applications and collaboration for basic and applied research.

WRPI Medium and Long-Term Goals

- a. Create a multi-campus organizational structure for a CSU-wide emphasis on water curriculum.
- b. Develop a management/administration platform for WRPI programs.
- c. Develop an outreach plan to the water industry, environmental groups and other stakeholders actively engaged in water issues and include them in the process as desired/needed.
- d. Provide outreach to/with committed campus presidents.
- e. Encourage individual campus presidents committed to a multi-campus WRPI program to serve as "ambassadors" to other, not yet engaged in campus presidents.
- f. Identify, discuss and determine if, and which state and federal certifications/accreditations might be applicable to the WRPI effort.
- g. Create collaboratively developed core courses.
- h. Create a business continuity model (including funding).
- i. Develop a Strategic Plan across the CSU - and include the CCC and UC systems - to address the best design to maximize education across an integrated university system.
- j. Create unique (international) approaches to expanding the role of WRPI.

Meeting Schedule, Notification, and Communication

- a. Encourage the full WRPI membership to meet at least once annually.
- b. Develop ad-hoc topic-specific project teams and Subject Matter Expert (SME) groups from interested campuses on relevant subjects and develop the membership as needed.
- c. WRPI members and the appropriate stakeholders will receive meeting minutes, updates, and drafts according to the WRPI Work Plan schedule (to be developed by the Steering/Planning Committees and General Membership).

Guiding Principles and Ground Rules

- a. Multi-party collaboration allows for a stronger and more coordinated CSU water focused curriculum. All member faculty, stakeholders, and campuses have a critical voice in the process.
- b. Education is the key to understanding; when a challenging issue appears, explanation is encouraged—even if it takes time to work through.

- c. All issues raised by WRPI members are valid and will be given due attention; respecting all individual, group, and campus perspectives will be paramount.
- d. Arrive promptly to all meetings/onto calls, prepared with the meeting agenda.
- e. Stay for the duration of the entire meeting call.
- f. Minimize actions that could be distracting to WRPI participants. Stay focused on joint business for the benefit of the full group.
- g. Participate in a problem-solving approach based on respectful and constructive dialogue, where the interests of all participants are considered in developing proposals and recommendations.
- h. Openly discuss issues with others who hold diverse views; acknowledge and seek clarification of others' perspectives; and verify assumptions when necessary.
Assure that all participants are heard and that one person speaks at a time. Refrain from side conversations.
- i. Keep commitments once made.
- j. When appropriate, distinguish between personal vs. organizational perspectives (i.e. for an organization that a member represents).
- k. Finally, it is always better to form and present questions in the positive (e.g. why did you choose a particular action vs. what the heck were you thinking!).

Internal Decision Making of WRPI

- a. Consensus-based decisions will be pursued at all times.
- b. If unable to reach consensus on a matter of critical and immediate importance to the project, majority vote will be required—with objections noted if requested.
- c. WRPI organizational decision-making and policies are intended as advisory to the Chancellor's Office for WRPI education, training, and research initiatives.

Major Near-Term Milestones

A CSU list serve will be used as a key communications vehicle to engage dialog and transmit information to all WRPI participants. Further, a CSU-wide WRPI conference will be planned and conducted in June of 2009 at the Chancellor Office in Long Beach. The outcome of the conference will be an improved understanding of the role of the WRPI and how faculty actions will govern its future.

Assumptions

The evolution of the WRPI will require close coordination with all related faculty and CSU programs engaged in water. As programs and issues evolve around California's water future, the charter will be updated as needed through majority approval of the current general WRPI membership.

ATTACHMENT 1: WRPI Membership Roster

WRPI - CSU CAMPUSES

(Initial guidance and support provided by the President's Oversight Committee)

- Dr. John Welty, California State University, Fresno
- Dr. J. Michael Ortiz, Cal Poly, Pomona
- Dr. Warren Baker, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
- Dr. Albert K. Karnig, California State University, San Bernardino
- Dr. Rollin C. Richmond, Humboldt State University