

# *SCEC Advisory Council Recommendations*

*Palm Springs, California*

*14 September 2016*

**John Vidale, Incoming AC Chair  
(University of Washington, Seattle)**

**Gail Atkinson, Outgoing AC Chair  
(Western University, London ON)**

# SCEC Advisory Council Membership, 2016

- **John Vidale** (*U Washington*)
- **Gail Atkinson, Chair** (*Western University*)
- **Norm Abrahamson** (*Pacific Gas and Electric*)
- **Roger Bilham** (*University of Colorado*)
- **Donna Eberhart-Phillips** (*UC Davis*)
- **Kate Long** (*California Office of Emergency Services*)
- **Warner Marzocchi** (*INGV, Rome*)
- **M. Meghan Miller** (*UNAVCO*)
- **Farzad Naeim** (*Farzad Naeim Inc.*)
- **Tim Sellnow** (*University of Central Florida*)
- **Andrew Whittaker** (*University of Buffalo*)
  
- **Last chance for comments in the next few days!**

# AC overall impressions

- **The effusively positive reviews of the SCEC5 proposal are a testament to the remarkable success of SCEC as a sustained and effective collaboration of earthquake scientists, working towards the common goal of earthquake hazards at all scales, and addressing their impacts on society.**
- **The energy of SCEC is apparent at this meeting, and the presence of so many new and younger attendees is compelling evidence of its vitality.**
- **The SCEC5 vision is truly exciting and we look forward to working with SCEC as this vision is transformed into solid scientific advances over the next few years.**

## **2016 Advisory Committee focus**

- **1. Revision of SCEC5 scope & budget**
- **2. Planning Committee reorganization**
- **3. Annual meeting growth**
- **4. CEO Activities and structure**
- **5. Major SCEC5 initiatives (special projects)**
- **6. SCEC5 management structure and transition**

# 1. Revision of SCEC5 scope and budget

- **SCEC5 proposal strongly endorsed by NSF & USGS – NSF funding flat.**
- **SCEC has been given flexibility by NSF how to accommodate needed budget shortfall.**
- **SCEC management should develop a plan to trim work plan for NSF, aligned with SCEC's core science goals and strategic planning.**
- **Plan may need to grow new funding sources.**
- **We are confident that SCEC management can meet this challenge.**

# Revision of SCEC5 scope and budget

- **Additional funds might be obtained from private sector partners (e.g., the major SCEC initiatives).**
  - **Insurance industry is a good example.**
- **Modest changes to the meeting structure could reduce its drain on the SCEC budget and bring in outside funding.**

# Revision of SCEC5 scope and budget

- **Reduction in scope of SCEC5 activities, at least initially; just focus on the key SCEC science strengths.**
- **In this context, the SCEC community modeling manager is a high priority.**
- **Leave interface activities to partners in other disciplines (e.g., physics of geotechnical layer; tall buildings).**

## 4. CEO Activities and Structure

### Education and Outreach

- **Focus limited resources on existing activities. (An impressive portfolio of projects already exists).**
- **The CEO planning committee structure is a valuable resource. (Assessment; stakeholder relationships; collaboration.)**
- **Recommend that CEO logic model objectives be clarified and evaluation data be aligned with each objective.**
- **CEO products, expertise and relationships have been successful in expanding SCEC to include social scientists, practitioners and educators who promote use of SCEC science through implementation of programs in their disciplines.**



## 3. Annual Meeting

- **The SCEC meeting is popular for many excellent reasons and we don't want to change any of them.**
  - **But this year was simply too big.**
- **It is probably necessary to limit the size of future SCEC meetings (600?) and to limit their cost.**
- **Palatable ideas include:**
  - **Poster fee for posters unfunded by SCEC project.**
  - **Registration fee that would be refunded for early career scientists (provided they attend).**
  - **Adjustments to meeting schedule, duration and meals.**
  - **Set an attendance cap.**

## 5. SCEC5 initiatives

- **The three proposed SCEC5 special initiatives (one funded, two pending) are well aligned with SCEC's mission and we applaud them:**
  - **Mining Seismic Wavefields (NSF/EAR; funded)**
  - **Continuation of UseIT (NSF/CISE)**
  - **Risk and Resiliency framework for water supply network (NIST)**
- **The diversified funding brought by such projects are a critical component of the SCEC5 budget.**
- **These initiatives provide a means for growing the SCEC budget to meet its needs in the face of level federal funding.**

# SCEC5 management structure and transition

## 2 & 6

- The AC welcomes the renewal that has taken place on the planning committee and agrees the new structure will provide effective guidance for SCEC5 science activities.
- The revised leadership model, with more distributed responsibilities, appears to be working effectively and will serve SCEC5 well.
- The revision of the SCEC management structure and renewal at USC provides an exciting opportunity for the new SCEC Director to shape the world's most influential and rewarding geoscience collaboration.

# Observations from Discussions

- **Supercycles are a fundamental and critical issue. Broader studies of how these cycles work, including regional comparisons, may be fruitful.**
- **Community models remain a key focus of SCEC collaborations and provide its greatest strength and value; science goals and activities should continue to link closely with these models.**
- **Community models must be compatible, understandable, and accessible.**

# More observations

- **Strides made in UCERF3+ETAS (SCEC4) have been impressive and complements the work of USGS in operational earthquake forecasting; ties in well with SCEC initiatives (CISM and CSEP).**
- **Continuing advancements/validations in ground motion modeling platforms provide key link to engineering interface.**
- **Big congratulations on remarkable grand challenge for SCEC interns.**

**Thanks to the entire SCEC team for  
another great meeting!**

**See you next year**

**At SCEC5**