

From: Mark Richards
Subject: CIG news
Date: December 1, 2004 11:49:55 AM PST
To: Member Representatives

Dear CIG Member Representatives,

I'm writing to you to keep you posted on recent developments in CIG, as well as to alert you to the upcoming CIG business meeting and social that will coincide with the Fall AGU meeting.

On Nov. 8 and 9, the CIG Executive Committee met in Pasadena to start the ball rolling on a number of matters of immediate concern. We started work on a strategic plan that each year will describe our goals and milestones for the coming year within the context of our longer-range vision. Many of you will be working with us on the strategic plan once we have working groups and a Science Steering Committee in place. The strategic plan will represent our collective wisdom on how to proceed into the future. We have also been considering a number of changes to the By-Laws. The committee also discussed several science proposals that have been made to CIG, and these are playing an important role in how we fashion the strategic plan. Finally, we agreed to advertise two positions for software engineers to support the development of the community infrastructure. The details of the Executive Committee meeting are posted at <http://geodynamics.org>.

I also wanted to alert you to two upcoming workshops that the Executive Committee agreed to sponsor or co-sponsor this coming summer. One will be a renewed Mantle Convection Workshop to be held in Boulder, CO, with Shijie Zhong as the principal organizer. Another will be a workshop on Community Finite Element Models for Fault Systems and Tectonic Studies. This workshop has, in fact, been going on for a few years. CIG agreed to co-sponsor and assist with the development of a uniform method to benchmark codes, and we also agreed to work with members of this community in the reengineering of finite element codes using lower-level libraries. For these workshops and others, we hope that a vision for CIG software emerges more clearly. Our software engineers will be playing an integral role in these workshops. We're also hoping to co-sponsor a workshop for the computational seismology community in the coming year as well. Please visit our web site for updates as they become available.

In preparation for the business meeting at Fall AGU, I wanted to alert you to the revised By-Laws that we have now posted on the web site. From the draft By-Laws that have been posted since earlier in the year, we are proposing the following changes to CIG: Instead of two standing committees (one in geoscience and the other in computational science) we believe that a single Science Steering Committee (SSC) will suite the needs of CIG better. This committee will have representation from both earth science and computational science, and through it we believe that CIG can create a more effective and agile mechanism to allow a smooth interaction between the community and the software development team. Another change is the elimination of an Advisory Council ñ CIG is just too small with too few resources to make effective use of such a committee. If CIG grows in the future, this is a committee that always can be brought into the fold. We have also moved the Director to ex-officio (non-voting) status on the Executive Committee. Finally, we are proposing a system of e-mail balloting in addition to that which takes place during business meetings. We hope that you will take a few moments to read the proposed By-Laws and discuss them with your colleagues.

I also want to alert you to the pending formation of the Science Steering Committee as proposed in the By-laws. The Executive Committee will be setting up a nominating committee as soon as the By-Laws are approved, perhaps even during the business meeting. This committee will then receive your advice and advance several names for each vacant seat on the committee. This will probably be different from the initial executive committee ballot that was an all or none vote. We would hope to have the SSC in place by the summer, followed quickly by an inaugural SSC meeting. It will be important to have the SSC in place before the Fall, because we will want your ideas for CIG to flow through the SSC for incorporation into the strategic plan. The basic concept is that subsequent to the formation of the SSC, the Executive Committee will function in more of an oversight role.

The business meeting will be held during the AGU meeting in San Francisco on Dec. 14 at the Argent Hotel from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Hors díoeuvres and an open bar will follow this from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, courtesy of Mike Gurnis. We are not necessarily asking you to vote on the By-Laws, but we can if attendance is strong and there is sufficient interest in doing so. If not, we have created a system of voting by e-mail.

Finally, I wanted to alert you to the fact that our web site will be undergoing frequent upgrades over the coming weeks. We will be adding new features so that you can register with a password, sign up for various e-mail lists, register and find out about workshops, and

download software that has been donated to CIG from other group activities.

Please forward this message to all of your interested colleagues.

I'll see you in San Francisco,

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Chairman of the Executive Committee

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