

NYSGISA Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Sept, 2020

Attendance: Paula Lazrus (Chair), Chris Badurek, Adeline Prentice, Eileen Allen, Jessica Tiefke, Mike Jabot.

Review August 2020 Minutes

General Updates:

This meeting started small with just Mike, Chris and myself, but was quickly joined by others. The first part of our conversation focused on various strategies people were using to overcome online teaching issues.

We next moved on to discuss what kinds of concrete things we might do as a committee, what kinds of workshops or webinars could we offer. This led to a conversation about outreach and how to get more people to see NYSGISA as one of their professional associations.

One comment was perhaps we need to think about how we use the word education, or how it might be used differently when thinking of k-12 vs higher ed.

With regard to when to offer things (even thinking ahead to the GEOCON in another year), timing is important as k-12 folks can't just join events in the middle of a weekday.

For all academics the fact that there is little or no funding at all for professional travel or events is going to influence what people can do. So the question is how can we build this into the conference. At NEARC Lyn Malone did this by holding the Ed events on Sunday. This worked for k-12, but also made that day almost too much k-12 and thus Higher Ed academics didn't think their work belonged there.

Yes there has often been an ed tract at the regular meeting (that's good), but how well do we publicize it? How can we showcase both the work that Academics in GIS are doing AND the pedagogies they use.

Someone brought up that 2-4 years ago Frank Winters put together something for students to enhance their careers, or to show faculty how bringing students might do that.

Jessica suggested that there were excellent 9-12 activities to collaborate across disciplines for example in forensic science. Most people don't know where to start so could we set up examples or have that as a session? Providing cross disciplinary ideas might be good at all levels of education.

Jessica also mentioned of Virtual GIS day in Nov. as an outlet for activities - Coordinating people is the challenge.

Adeline mentioned the OCC VAB (?) program – drones -- xyz --- computer programming --- How to teach

Other Ideas that were floated included:

Shared resources

Newscast

Lightening talks + discussion

Geomentors

Symposium

Issue of ED Content in Higher Ed addressed. What do they or don't they address, what would they want to see from the association? How could we be relevant to them.

We discussed breaking ourselves into two groups a Higher Ed focused and K-12 Focus to brainstorm ideas. Mike, Jessica, Adeline (probably Susan too) in the K-12 and Paula, Chris and Eileen +?? In the Higher ed one.

Step one for the HE group would be to reach out and see if we can get emails for people teaching in higher ed and send out a survey to see what they want or what they know/don't know about us.

REMINDER: New Repository for files/ideas

We now have a new online repository for projects and record keeping. It is a folder called NY GIS Ed Committee. Within it are two folders presently and 1 file. A folder for meeting Minutes, a folder for Agendas and for now a file with links to useful resources. Feel free to add to that file or to upload materials for people to share.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Vr7kmCNNmnJuYfQzodk8W1fPCgTelZ61?usp=sharing>

Eventually we could put together some best practices materials that we can share with the wider community.

Projects: Sharing Experiences Teaching GIS Online

We didn't get to this, but Paula and Chris wondered if perhaps at the next meeting we break these up and different groups can work on them and then report back to the committee.

1. How was your experience in teaching GIS online last semester?
2. What concerns do you have about teaching GIS online?
3. What 1-2 tips do you have to share with others on teaching GIS online?
4. What other thoughts do you have on the future of teaching GIS online?
5. Getting some webinars going (ask Shane Bradt, Eileen's friend and Joe K to do some short specific webinars).

We are aiming for our next meeting in late October. Stay Safe everyone.