

## **Charter: External Advisory Council**

*Provides an overview of SCEC operations and advice on strategic initiatives to strengthen the operations, effectiveness, and sustainability of the Center.*

### **A. Purpose**

The external Advisory Council (EAC) serves as an experienced body that provides an outside perspective on the Center's activities with an emphasis on their impacts and sustainability. The EAC is charged with developing an overview of SCEC operations and advising the SCEC Directors and Board of Directors on major issues facing the Center, through:

1. Identifying strengths, weaknesses and vulnerabilities: The EAC will provide assessments of strengths the Center should build on, activities that should be improved to remain a leader in multi-disciplinary earthquake science, and vulnerabilities to continuing operations including resources and personnel.
2. Facilitating interactions: The EAC will provide advice on interactions with allied disciplines and stakeholders with an interest in earthquake science and education.
3. New technologies: The EAC can provide important input on new technologies in observations, simulations, data storage, and analysis.
4. Funding possibilities: We welcome suggestions for additional funding strategies including how to engage the private sector.

### **B. Membership**

The EAC shall consist of 5-8 members from diverse disciplines with expertise that represents major aspects of Center activities, as well as from diverse demographic backgrounds that reflect both society and science. The membership will include a mix of academics, practicing professionals, and other stakeholders from academia, government, and the private sector. Stakeholders should include both potential users of SCEC research and providers of products or services that are relevant to SCEC's activities. Candidates for the EAC shall be nominated by the Center Directors and confirmed by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting membership of the Board of Directors. To qualify as a candidate, the nominee must not receive any funding from the Center, or have received funding in the three years prior to the nomination. Persons identified as interested faculty or personnel in an institution's application letter for core and participating status are also disqualified from being elected to the Advisory Council. Each member shall serve for a three-year term and may be re-appointed. Member terms will be staggered such that one-third of the EAC membership shall be re-appointed or replaced every year.

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the EAC shall be selected from among its members by the Center Directors, and confirmed by a two-thirds majority vote of voting membership of the Board of Directors. The EAC Chair and Vice-Chair shall facilitate the business of the Advisory Council so that it achieves the purpose as described in Section A. They will each serve in concurrent three-year terms and may be re-appointed to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms in their specific roles. The Vice-Chair will serve as the Chair of the EAC if the Chair is removed or otherwise unable to fulfill her/his responsibilities.

A liaison of the SCEC Board of Directors will support the EAC in conducting its business and to facilitate communications and coordination among the Center leadership groups.

### **C. Meetings and Deliverables**

The External Advisory Council will meet in person at the SCEC Annual Meeting to review the Center programs and plans. Led by the Chair and Vice-Chair, the EAC will prepare and submit a report to the Center Directors by October 15 annually. This report is included verbatim in the Center's annual reports to the USGS and NSF and will be posted publicly online, as well as presented in the Annual Meeting Proceedings the following year. SCEC will cover registration and hotel for EAC members and will also consider travel expenses if requested and resources are available.

The Chair of the EAC, and potentially also Vice-Chair, will also attend the May SCEC Leadership Retreat (2.5 days) where the research program and activities of the Center are reviewed and future plans are discussed. SCEC will cover expenses if requested.

Additional meetings of the EAC shall be held via web conference generally quarterly, as needed to develop assessments and recommendations for the Center. The schedule will be determined by the Chair and members of the Council. The EAC shall maintain minutes of the meetings and report to the Center Directors and Board of Directors.