# MEETING AGENDA

## GIS Advisory Committee Meeting

**Friday, April 9, 2021**

**4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Virtual-Zoom**

***Attendees:***

*Wing Cheung (Palomar College)*
*Alex Sainz (GEOinovo Solutions)*
*Megan Hoff (Navy)*
*Monique Larragoitia (City of Carlsbad)*
*Luciane Musa (GEOinovo Solutions)*
*James Fournier (City of San Juan Capistrano)*

## A. Agenda and meeting discussion items

| ID | Time | Item title | Participants |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4:00-4:05 | Welcome and introductions | All |
| 2 | 4:05-4:10 | Review and approval of previous meeting minutes | All |
| 3 | 4:10-4:45 | Palomar program and curriculum updates<br>• Summer semester offerings<br>  ○ Working with LiDAR and UAS Data in ArcGIS<br>• Fall semester offerings<br>  ○ Intro GIS / Database Management and Data Acquisition / GIS Internship / Remote Sensing and Drone Data Processing<br>• Spring semester offerings<br>  ○ Intro GIS / Python / Intermediate GIS / Spatial Statistics or Cartography / GIS Internship<br>• What's new in the Program? https://palomar.curricunet.com/Report/Program/GetReport/1541?reportId=147 | Wing |
| 4 | 4:45-6:00 | Industry trends<br>• COVID's impact on student learning and workforce preparedness<br>• Job market outlook and career advice | All |

# B. Outcomes and remarks of discussion items

| ID | Remarks/Outcomes/Concerns |
|---|---|
| 1 | The meeting was attended by members from the private and public sectors. |
| 2 | Participants were asked to review the minutes from the last meeting. James motioned to approve the minutes, Alex seconded, and the minutes were approved. |
| 3 | Palomar program and curriculum updates-<br>Wing provided an overview of the LiDAR class that will be offer on June 18, 19, 2021. Committee members are excited about this course, and believe it covers lots of content relevant to the field. Specifically, there are increasing number of construction, environmental/watershed modeling, military contracting opportunities requesting LiDAR technology (Luciane). There are also applications for LiDAR in monitoring coastal erosion and sensitive habitats (Alex). Wing proposed to explore partnership opportunities between Palomar College and GEOinovo to use the college's LiDAR unit to create additional learning, internship, and job opportunities for students. Alex and Luciane concurred, and believed that the partnership can be in the form of demonstrating LiDAR capabilities and conducting pilots to potential clients.<br><br>Wing reviewed the GIS classes that will be offered in Summer 2021, Fall 2021, and Spring 2022. The format of instruction (virtual vs. face-to-face) in Fall 2021 remains uncertain due to COVID.<br><br>Many GIS users are still using a combination of ArcMap and ArcGIS Pro because of the latter's shortcomings (James, Monique). One growing area in GIS that students should learn about is Utility Network in ArcGIS, because more local government departments are migrating to it (Luciane). Students mainly should know what it is (Monique), and the basic of editing in it (Alex). A module on the basics such as this: https://learn.arcgis.com/en/projects/get-started-with-the-arcgis-utility-network/ should be sufficient (Alex, Monique). |
| 4 | Industry trends-<br>• COVID's impact on student learning and workforce preparedness<br>Wing asked the committee whether lab recordings (in addition to written step-by-step directions) will increase or decrease students' preparedness for the real-world GIS workplace. On the one hand, lab recording is an additional valuable resource especially for students who may have other distraction at home during class time (Alex, Monique), and it is great that students are taking the time to review them after class (Megan). On the other hand, students should be taking notes, paying attention, and participating in class, and there are worries that the availability of lab recording may demotivate students to do so (Luciane). This is especially problematic since most employers will not provide new workers with a step-by-step guide on how to perform a task (and definitely not provide a step-by-step video on how to perform a task) (Luciane). Workers are generally expected to be resourceful and find solutions on their own via Google (Monique). A potential compromise is to post lab recording later in the week to encourage students to first work through their problems, and only turn to the lab recording for problems they cannot solve (Monique).<br><br>• Job market outlook and career advice<br>There is a lot of competition for entry-level GIS position due to layoffs related to COVID (Luciane, James). Students need to either have a strong technical specialty (e.g. database, programming) and/or strong interview skills to get a position (Luciane). Specifically, candidates should research the company prior to the interview (Luciane), address qualification and include keywords in their applications to get past HR screening (Alex), and demonstrate how their background and experience will help the company grow (Monique). It is a good idea for students to conduct mock interviews with assistance from the Career Center (Monique).<br><br>Job candidates should also have demonstrated experience related to the position they are applying for. Students can get experience prior to graduation by doing internships, volunteering, or coming up with projects to demonstrate their experience and interest in particular GIS sector (Monique, Luciane, James). Students may also need to contend with short-term opportunities that may not be ideal in order to build their experience in a particular GIS sector (Luciane). |

# Active Action Items

| *Assigned To* | *Start Date* | *Due Date* | *Status* | *Item Description & Notes* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| All | | | Open | Seek out internship opportunities for Palomar students & introduce projects for service learning. |