



Fostering Excellence in GIS

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July 7, 2018

Dear MAC URISA Board,

We appreciate you taking the time to communicate your questions about OneURISA during the recent CAB calls and in email to the Chapter Advisory Board and URISA Board of Directors. We appreciate your continued involvement in this initiative and willingness to be an active part of the process.

OneURISA represents the greatest realignment of our organization in its over 50-year history. Which is why it has taken over 15 years to move it forward. This is not something that is being taken lightly or without as much thought as possible to help ensure it is a success. While many of your questions have been addressed during the CAB calls, we want to ensure all of them have been answered. So below is the list of question you have submitted as of April 4, 2018 along with answers.

1. Given the fact we are already well into 2018, can the deadline to implement OneURISA until after 12/2020 to give chapters that only have conferences on even years' time to present the fuller package to our members? – We must have a target deadline, or we will lose momentum and not get to the finish line. So, no change on the target is planned. We do recognize it is ambitious and that some chapters may have a more difficult time moving to this new model than others. That is why we will have tech assist teams and marketing support to help with the transition. Your chapter will not be doing this alone.

2. With the Financial analysis being reviewed, it was stated that the Board is looking at ways to reduce the costs. Can the cost be shared at this time, so the chapters can prepare? – Not sure exactly what costs you are referring too. The entire analysis was made available to all chapters via the Podio which outlined specific expected cost. At the recent face to face URISA Board meeting, we did find out that two big cost items in the analysis may not be needed at least initially, upgrading the member management system and the Lexus Nexus subscription for monitoring legislative activity. URISA has been working with our membership management vendor and found ways to optimize the current system so we believe it will handle the additional member load. Also, it is believed a new Esri Business Partner might provide a similar legislative monitoring solution that could be used by URISA for a reduced cost or possible no cost. These two items take out a large amount of the initial anticipated OneURISA costs. As a result, the Board has decided that there will be no increase in the individual membership fee because of OneURISA. It did decide to increase the URISA International fee from \$195 to adjust for inflation and increasing operating costs. It has been over 10 years since that fee was increased. So, the cost to be an individual member once OneURISA is implemented will be \$195 plus whatever fee the chapter elects to add for membership. This is consistent with other professional organizations such as American Planning Association and GITA. The amount is also in line with the average professional membership cost of those and other geospatial related professional associations.



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3. *Once OneURISA has been implemented, will there still be the chapter affiliation fee per chapter? This fee was supposed to be temporary during the transition to OneURISA.* – No there will be no affiliation fee once a chapter is implemented under OneURISA.

4. *How voting will be dealt with at the local chapters with changes in membership? If OneURISA was implemented now MAC URISA would not have enough active members to fill a board nonetheless to have a voting population to vote the officers in.* – This is certainly a concern. However, don't forget the Chapter will also pick up URISA members that are not chapter members. There are currently 62 URISA members that reside in the Mid-Atlantic area. It is expected the majority of these URISA members will continue to their membership and would also now be members of the chapter if they are not already. From there it will be up to URISA (Chapter and National) to work out recruiting campaigns to develop new members. That would be a joint effort as under OneURISA it is in the best interest of everyone to encourage new memberships. Of course, don't forget other membership types such as young professionals, students, non-profits and others. These too will be voting members with full rights.

5. *During the Face to face board meeting a few months ago, did the submission deadlines change to take into account the few months delay in sending the implementation plan after the face to face?* – Yes adjustments were made to account for that. The initial data requests were for governing documents and annual reports which should be readily available. However, if you have some difficulty providing the requested information, provide what you can and let the Implementation Team know about issues you are having with the documents you are not able to provide within the requested deadline. If they can help in any way they will. This is a team effort.

6. *I hear that URISA is contacting accountants and lawyers. Do you realize that not all chapters have the same type of resources and we may need time to gather these documents?* – Yes, we know most chapters do not have a lawyer and/or an accountant. Many of Board Members and of course all the CAB leadership, has also been or are chapter leaders. This is always in the forefront of our minds. For issues or questions that impact many chapters, the Implementation Team is working through the board to get those answers from those resources. As we move through to implementing, the Tech Support Teams will have access to those resources as well to help the chapters as we move forward. As to the documentation requested, please see the answer to question 5 above.

7. *Is it still the plan that each chapter will STILL be their own independent organizations?* – Based on initial conversations with the URISA Attorney, he recommended that existing chapter which had 501C3 status should remain so. As we gather more information about each chapter and their status that might change.

8. *Can we get access to the URISA member story map?* - We believe so. Expect that to be linked to the URISA website soon. We will make an announcement in Podio once it is.



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9. If the final implementation goes past 2020 and our chapter has not been implemented yet, will our insurance certificates and such still be available? – This will depend on several factors. First input from legal counsel and insurance provider. Second will depend on status of implementation process and lastly effort by the Chapter to move forward with OneURISA. Our best guess at this point is that if the Chapter has been making a good faith effort to move forward with OneURISA and assuming insurance provider will allow it, then yes that could still be available.

We hope this has answered your questions. Please remember we are trying to unify 22 US Chapters and 4 International Chapters. Each chapter has its own business model. This makes the unification challenging. The ultimate goal being a stronger organization for all members.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please feel free to submit them to the OneURISA Implementation Team.

Respectfully,

URISA Board of Directors

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