Value and Role of the Council – Notes,

May 2012, Ruth Pordes, Council Chair

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Many of the topics were brought up by multiple people.

I have marked a few with \* that I would propose to follow up on over the next 6 months.

Outreach:

* Be active in outreach to new communities and partners.
* Go beyond the US
* \*Reach out to new communities e.g. light sources.

Collaboration/Community:

* Only management body OSG has that handled interactions across/with all stakeholders. It is very important.
* Enable members and communities to contribute.
* Consortium is the fundamental organization that brings together the stakeholders.
* Important merely through its existence. It is at minimum a channel of communication and a social club.
* Value in having face to face and phone conversations to get everyone connected. Proposals part of that would not have worked out so quickly without this happening.
* Increases bandwidth of communication between VOs.
* Information sharing is helpful.
* Bottom up volunteer organization of research projects and institutions contributing to a collective good.
* Means for the Council to motivate members by giving some benefit/payback from contributions.
* Addresses issues that are broader than the project, interfacing to other projects and partners.
* \* Motivate the Council members to contribute:
  + \* Write publishable papers.
  + Take joint positions.
  + Foster satellites and other collaborations.

Strategic:

* Unites the stakeholders and gives input to the direction of the OSG in organizational and high level technical terms.
* Right place to determine the general direction OSG is heading, to define the overall strategy.
* Not get too involved in the nuts and bolts. It is more like a Board of Directors.
* Not involved in the day to day running. It takes a longer term view and to ensure the project is doing a reasonable job.
* Council is of illustrious people who care about the usefulness of OSG, has familiarity with and will do what needs to be done to keep it going.
* \* Responsible for the Strategic plan.
* Help OSG as an entity pursue funding and meet the needs of the communities
* \* Council is capable of doing this but it takes time.
* Need to see and propose to address deficiencies in general terms (not specific technologies).
* Look at gaps in the current roadmap.
* Understand that effort is limited.
* Coherently integrate satellites and new ideas.

Governance:

* Balances requests against each other.
* Right place to provide direction to the management team.
* \* Formalizes things that need formalizing.

Advice/Lacks:

* Not performing the mission had in mind: random and sporadic topics, sporadic action items created, no redline walking along with the strategy and oversight expected.
* Should maintain an organized flow of presentations and discussions.
* Should look at lessons learned and failures and think how to address them.
* Helps prioritize, set strategic direction and coordinate for everyone to pull in one direction. Act as a steering/strategic committee.
* Council should help step back and get a better strategic architecture, simpler and more sustainable.
* \* Not engaging external users as well as we could from the Council level.
* Form working groups to write papers, do work.
* Expect that Council members will bring in other people from their organizations to do the work. Not because they are paid but because of mutual self interest.