

URSSI
Policy: Data &
Advocacy/Outreach

Workshops & strawhorses

- In general workshops, we introduced strawhorse plans with potential URSSI structure, 5–6 parts
- One part was Policy, with two components:
 - Data – gather data to inform policy, including analysis
 - Advocacy – use data & analysis to push for changes

What fits policy

- Almost everything that is hard for URSSI to do directly 😊
 - Software credit, citation, etc.
 - Career paths & RSEs
 - Recognition of the role of software in research
 - Sustainability models
 - Increased funding of software, including maintenance
 - More sustained funding of software
 - Shareware-like models that encourage users to contribute to projects
 - ...

Policy challenge

- Selectively address areas where change/impact is possible during URSSI
- Perhaps also invest a little in a few long-term activities
- May not be possible to know which is which without some data
- Want to leverage community whenever possible – get help with gathering data, need help with advocacy
- Also want to leverage fellows – lightly paid “staff” who already want to work on this, but need a bit of funding/title

Questions

- What topics could URSSI policy activities address?
- For each
 - What's the timeframe for possible impact?
 - What's the scale of impact? (low, medium, high)
 - Which policy phase(s)? (data collection, analysis, advocacy)
 - Who else needs to be involved?
 - What community resources can be leveraged?
 - What amount of work is needed by URSSI, and by what kind of URSSI staff member?
 - Would this happen without URSSI?
- How should new topics be brought in over time?
- How should policy area be organized?
- What staff is needed overall?
- How important is this area to URSSI?
- How much budget is needed, either absolute or fraction of URSSI?