Department of Defense University Consortium for Cybersecurity

According to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (NDAA 2020) Section 1659, the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) shall establish a university consortium to assist on cybersecurity matters.

This consortium, referred to as the University Consortium for Cybersecurity (UC2), shall advise the SECDEF on the needs of academic institutions related to cybersecurity and research conducted on behalf of the DoD, serve as a focal point for close collaboration between academia and the DoD on cybersecurity matters, provide the SECDEF timely access to the expertise of the institutions of the consortium on matters relating to cybersecurity, and align support efforts of consortium members in support of the DoD.

The DoD UC2 has been established with the following goals:
- To fulfill the intent of the law (i.e., NDAA 2020, Section 1659)
- To provide a connection between the SECDEF and the academic community on matters of cybersecurity via Requests for Information (RFIs)

The DoD UC2 maintains a government advisory council and executive committee consisting of representatives from these bodies:
- The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OUSD(R&E))
- The National Security Agency National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity Program Management Office (NSA NCAE-C PMO)
- The National Defense University College of Information and Cyberspace (NDU CIC)
- The U.S. Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM)
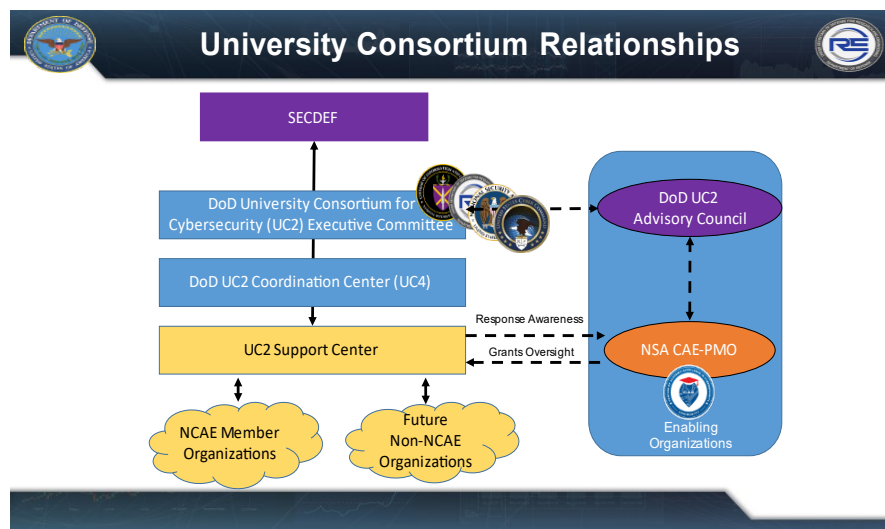
Members of the UC2 Executive Committee lead the consortium and manage the day-to-day business of the UC2. Members of the UC2 Advisory Council lead the effort of identifying the topic areas for the RFIs and selecting the best responses.

The UC2 Coordination Center (UC4) serves as a liaison between the DoD and academia, to coordinate the requests for information and serve as a clearinghouse for responses. For upcoming updates about the UC2 effort, go to https://cic.ndu.edu/Events/UC4/. The NDU CIC is designated as the Administrative Chair, and is supported by the University of Idaho, which was selected to serve as the UC2 Support Center. In this role, the UC2 Support Center will communicate with NCAE universities, and potential future non-NCAE universities, and maintain response awareness with the UC2 Advisory Council and the NSA NCAE-C PMO.