

USNC-URSI
Executive Council Meeting Minutes
22 July 2021
Online Meeting



1) Call to Order and Introductions (Sembiam Rengarajan)

Sembiam Rengarajan, the Chair of USNC-URSI, called the meeting to order at 11:07 am MST. The following Members of USNC were present at the Executive Council Meeting:

USNC-URSI Officers

Sembiam Rengarajan (Chair)
Michael Newkirk (Secretary and Chair-Elect)
David Jackson (Immediate Past Chair)
Gary Brown (Accounts Manager)
Jamesina Simpson (Secretary-Elect and Executive Committee member)

Commission Chairs (or Vice Chairs/Secretaries)

Jeanne Quimby (Commission A Chair)
Branislav Notaros (Commission B Chair)
Negar Ehsan (Commission D Chair)
Attila Komjathy (Commission G Chair)
Thomas Gaussiran (Commission G Vice-Chair)
Mark Golkowski (Commission H Chair)
Jeff Mangum (Commission J Chair)
Majid Manteghi (Commission K Chair)

Women in Radio Science Chair

Reyhan Baktur

U. S. Officers of URSI

Ross Stone (Assistant Secretary General - Publications)

National Academies Staff (non-voting)

Ana Ferreras

Student Paper Competition Coordinator (non-voting)

Erdem Topsakal

2) Approval of the Agenda (Newkirk)

The agenda for the meeting was discussed and approved (M: Stone; S: Brown).

3) Approval of the Minutes (Newkirk)

The minutes of the January 2021 Executive Council Meeting were approved (M: Stone; S: Brown).

4) Constitution Update (Newkirk)

- The USNC-URSI Constitution (Article III, Paragraph 3.e) was recently amended to include the WIRS Chair as a permanent voting member.

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- Voting occurred in April 2021 and the update was unanimously approved.
- The approved changes were forwarded to the National Academies for review/concurrence; concurrence was received on 25 June 2021. The amended Constitution has been placed in the USNC-URSI Archive: www.usnc-ursi-archive.org.

5) 2021 GASS Status (Newkirk)

- The General Assembly and Scientific Symposium (GASS) will be held in a hybrid fashion in Rome, Italy, 29 August – 4 September, 2021. The USNC-URSI Chair, Secretary/Chair-Elect and Immediate Past Chair all plan to attend in person.
- USNC-URSI will support student and Early Career Member travel with a NSF Grant. Officer and Commission Members' travel will be supported from the Private Account, noting that there are not expected to be a large number of members from either category traveling due to continuing COVID-19 concerns. As of July 8, just over 1000 attendees had registered and slightly more than half had indicated the intent to participate in person.
- USNC-URSI has nominated George Uslenghi for URSI President.

6) JMC Report (Stone)

- The 2021 ICEAA/IEEE APWC/USNC-URSI RSM will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, 9–13 August 2021. 365 papers were accepted, with only 35 of those from USNC-URSI. It is expected that at least 115 papers will be presented in person and 250 papers will be presented remotely across 37 sessions.
- The status of the 2021 IEEE AP-S / USNC-URSI Meeting in Singapore was discussed. It was postponed to 4–10 December 2021 due to COVID-19 concerns. 1169 AP-S papers were accepted and 260 USNC-URSI papers were accepted for a total of 1429 papers. This is a bit lower than normal for USNC-URSI submissions, but likely due to the location. 191 of the AP-S papers were submitted to the Student Paper Competition. The largest percentage of papers from a single country was 24% (China) followed by 22% from USA.
- The conference will be fully hybrid and it is unknown how many attendees will be in person. If the conference does not have a loss, USNC-URSI still will receive \$66K per the recently revised MOU between AP-S and USNC-URSI.

7) 2022 National Radio Science Meeting (NRSM) (Newkirk)

- A survey of past NRSM attendees was conducted to assess the interest in attending the NRSM in person vs. online.
 - 145 responses were received, and 72% planned to attend in person. Of those that did not plan to travel, 56% would still be likely to participate online. Most that indicated they wouldn't attend in person cited COVID-19 concerns and organization travel limitations. 81% of all attendees liked having recorded presentations for later viewing.
 - Regarding online tutorials and business meetings, 36% preferred having them during the days of the sessions, 17% preferred these before the sessions start, and 47% had no preference.
- A proposed schedule for the NRSM was discussed, with two options that started events with the USNC-URSI business meeting on either Monday or Tuesday evening, tutorials

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and Commission business meetings the following day, and three days of sessions to follow. This generally followed the 2021 NRSMS schedule, allowing more time for student events and an additional Plenary speaker. After lengthy discussion on this 5-day schedule vs. past 4-day schedule, a straw vote was conducted that resulted in a roughly equal preference for each start date. A second straw poll was conducted that resulted in the majority favoring the more traditional 4-day schedule, where we try to fit in as many of our newer events as possible. It was decided that an email vote would be conducted later to see what option the USNC-URSI Committee preferred for the format of the 2022 NRSMS. This will give the USNC-URSI Executive Committee feedback to help them in their planning process.

- The fall timeline for paper submission and review, session formation, and associated dates was reviewed. Commission Chairs were encouraged to work with their Vice-Chairs, Secretaries and Special Session organizers to begin planning for paper reviews in order to meet these deadlines:
 - Submission deadline: 20 September;
 - Begin reviews: 20 September;
 - Session formation complete: 22 October.
- Registration rates will be the same for those attending in person or online, in order to cover the costs of providing online access as well as to both simplify the registration process and to allow attendees to easily change their plans as late as possible. Rates will be announced around 1 September.
- Jeff Mangum discussed the status of the Tutorials committee. The members include Ana Ferreras, Jon Chisum, Mark Golkowski, David Jackson, with Jeff as the chair. The first tutorial held in 2021 was reviewed, which was deemed very successful. Suggestions for topics and speakers is sought as they plan for 2022.
- The Plenary theme will be “RF Spectrum Use, Management, and Interference Mitigation.” The potential speakers include Shannon Blunt (University of Kansas), Andy Clegg (Google and Baylor University), and Harvey Liszt (NRAO and IUCAF Chair). The sponsoring Commissions are B, E, and J. It was suggested that Eric Mokole provide a short introductory talk and moderate the session, based on a detailed message he provided to the USNC-URSI leadership while discussing the possible speakers.
- 34 Special Sessions are planned for the NRSMS, 6 being joint between at least two Commissions.
- A Sponsors and Exhibitors Committee has been established, chaired by Mike Newkirk with Satish Sharma as one other member. Branislav Notaros suggested that Sima Noghianian be invited to join the Committee. Mike will reach out to her and will work with both of the other members to develop information to send to prospective sponsors.

8) Other items for Discussion

- It was noted that the Student Paper Competition will again have 5 finalists competing for the top three prizes. This worked well for the 2021 NRSMS and will be conducted in a dedicated session that does not interfere with other sessions.

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- Jeanne Quimby asked if there was information available to explain how the hybrid meetings will be conducted for the upcoming GASS in Rome as well as the 2022 NRSM. Ross pointed out the information was on the GASS website, but Jeanne's feedback from others indicated that information was not very clear. Ross will provide that feedback to the GASS organizers and the NRSM site will include this information.
- Branislav Notaros asked for clarification as to whether the 2022 NRSM will be hybrid, since the Call for Papers indicates a strong preference for in-person. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the 2022 NRSM will be hybrid.

9) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm MST (M: Stone; S: Newkirk).