

**USNC-URSI**  
**Business Meeting Minutes**  
4 January 2022  
Boulder, CO



**1) Call to Order and Self Introductions (Michael Newkirk)**

Michael Newkirk, the Chair of USNC-URSI, called the meeting to order at 5:06pm MST. The following Members of USNC were present at the Business Meeting:

*In person attendees:*

Gary Brown, Chris Anderson, Tom Gaussiran II, Alyson Ford, Ana Ferreras, Steven Weiss, Dave Deboer, Chris Holloway, John Volakis, Thomas Hanley, Jamesina Simpson, Steve Reising, Jonathan Chisum, George Uslenghi, Zoya Popovic

*Online attendees:*

Ross Stone, Mark Golkowski, Reyhan Baktur, Katherine Mulreany, Danilo Erricolo, Sembiam Rengarajan, Greg Huff, Yahya Rahmat-Samii, Mark Reid, Ozlem Kilic, Susan Hagness, Ashley Vanderley, Branislav Notaros, Asimina Kiourti, Keith Groves, Patricia Doherty, Dave Michelson, Saba Mudaliar, Gianluca Lazzi

**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 Business Meeting were approved (M: Stone; S: Rengarajan).

**4) Report of the Chair (Newkirk)**

An overview of international URSI and USNC-URSI was provided. We have 4 government liaisons, but there are six positions, so we could add two more. We also need to fill in some of the USNC-URSI Commission Vice-Chair positions.

NRSM 2022 Overview: This year's hybrid NRSM includes additional costs not seen in the past. Registration fees had to be increased above previous levels to account for these new costs. We are still prioritizing student support (78 students received complimentary student registration, and another 18 who planned to travel will also receive partial reimbursement of costs if they do attend in person). We received \$8k from four sponsors (Johns Hopkins University - Applied Physics Lab, Florida International University, University of Colorado, and San Diego State University). Committee members were asked to help find more sponsors.

The NRSM program was reviewed. The Commission Chairs should be prepared to judge the student paper competition presentations

Future NRSMs: John Volakis previously made a proposal to host future NRSMs at Florida International University in Miami. Mike Newkirk and Ross Stone plan to visit the site later this year and then report to the Committee at the next Business Meeting

A moment of silence was observed for recently deceased members: Gerald Burke, Tatsuo Itoh, Tapan Sarkar, Allen Taflove, and Thomas (Tommy) Thompson.

# USNC-URSI Business Meeting Minutes

4 January 2022

Chairs should encourage their members to nominate new members to their Commissions (full, associate, and early career).

Commission websites: All Commission officers should send updates to James Manning (officer names, meeting minutes, membership lists, etc.).

2023 USNC-URSI Awards: All of the relevant information is included in the operating manual. All nominations are due 15 Aug. 2022. David Jackson will serve as the first chair of the USNC-URSI Awards committee.

2023 URSI Awards: Nominations are due well before 15 August 2022 so that USNC-URSI can make selections by the 15 August 2022 deadline.

## 5) Report by the Secretary/Chair-Elect (Simpson)

Jamesina Simpson discussed the operating manual that was just created over the past year and that USNC-URSI needs consistency among the Commission membership lists.

## 6) Report by the Immediate Past Chair (Rengarajan)

The first Women in Radio Science (WIRS) chapter was created in the U.S. last year. The NRSM offered tutorials for the first time last year and four new USNC-URSI awards were created. An overview of URSI GASS 2021 was provided.

URSI would like the national committees to include early career representative (ECR) in their leadership. Ross Stone moved that we ask the Commissions to elect an ECR in each Commission. Sembiam Rengarajan seconded the motion. Gary Brown recommended we define necessary qualifications for these positions. Ross Stone suggested that it should be up to the individual Commissions. George Uslenghi said the reason behind this motion is to try to involve young scientists in leadership roles within URSI. He recommends that we have the same criteria for all Commissions and start with one ECR per Commission (maybe they might move up later to the position of secretary, vice-chair, etc.). Ross withdrew his motion, and it was decided that we would poll the Commissions during their Commission business meetings to get ideas, and then we will discuss this idea at the Executive Council Meeting. We also need to consider that USNC-URSI Early Career Members (ECMs) are non-voting members.

## 7) Report by the Accounts Manager (Brown)

An overview of the accounts was provided. All appear to be in good shape. Why is the C&I so large for the Booker endowment? We think these funds were put in the wrong category by NSF (private account).

All Commission chairs have \$3k to spend during the triennium to invest in their Commission (e.g. on members within their Commission). If necessary, some of these funds can be used for travel by the Commission officers.

We have not been spending all of the NSF budget. George Uslenghi: Should we spend all the money we get from NSF? If we don't, the next time the grant proposal submission deadline comes around, NSF might cut our budget? Gary Brown: We are bank rolling it for future travel for students. Ana: We can't spend all the money from NSF at once because they provide us funds only every 5 years, and there are also URSI dues to pay. Mike Newkirk: We have a bit extra because not as many people traveled for the URSI GASS. Ana: We

# USNC-URSI Business Meeting Minutes

4 January 2022

don't have to give the funds back if we don't spend it by the end of the 5-year term. In conclusion, it is certainly the intent that all of the NSF funding will be spent by the end of the five-year term.

## **8) Report by the Women in Radio Science Chair (Baktur)**

In 2021, WIRS had its first business meeting and reception. They elected their first set of officers. WIRS is women-led, but all are welcome to attend the WIRS events.

## **9) Report by the Tutorials Committee Chair (Newkirk)**

Mike presented for Jeff Mangum. Mike commented that we have good attendance for all of the tutorials this year. We are looking for ideas and suggestions for next year.

## **10) Report by the Student Paper Competition Chair (Newkirk)**

Michael Newkirk presented this report for Erdem Topsakal. Yahya suggested we add a complete list of previous winners and their institutions to the website. And maybe we can select some of them to be active as early career members. Mike Newkirk said we can get in touch with James Manning to add this information to the NSF website.

## **11) Remarks by the URSI President and EIC Radio Science Letters (Uslenghi)**

An overview was provided for the 2021 URSI GASS in Rome. There were 1200 participants but only 300 showed up in person. It was well organized.

The main reason for not having the next GASS in 3 years after the GASS in 2021 is that it would have been too close to the date of the Astronomical Society Symposium

Pat Doherty is the second woman to ever serve as Vice-President of URSI. For the first time in the history of URSI, two sets of international URSI positions are filled with people from the same country (USA and Japan)

It's not clear that people will be able to travel this year, and holding the AT-RASC and AP-RASC in the same year would have effectively caused the two meetings to compete with each other. As a result, the AP-RASC and AT-RASC will be held jointly in 2022 as the AT-AP-RASC.

We need more women active in URSI and in leadership positions within URSI. Italy is forming a second chapter of WIRS. URSI will give every member country with a WIRS chapter \$500 for that chapter

The journal Radio Science is owned by AGU and has been taken over by Wiley. To avoid competition, George Uslenghi created a letters journal owned by URSI. Only 9 letters were published in the first year, but it received 66 letters in the second year (47 were published). This past year, it received 70 letters (7 rejected and 12 accepted so far). Please consider submitting an expanded version of AP-RASC and GASS abstracts to the Radio Science Letters. If a letter originates from one of our conferences, then the publication cost is \$100 rather than \$175 per page. After another year, we can go for full indexing (get an impact factor, be in the citation index, etc.). The full indexing will be retro-active

Gary Brown asked about advertising of the journal. George Uslenghi said it was advertised to all participants in GASS and they will also advertise at future conferences. All participants at this year's USNC-URSI NRSM will also receive an ad.

# USNC-URSI Business Meeting Minutes

4 January 2022

Gary Brown: What is the financial status of international URSI? George Uslenghi said all of the financial information is posted on the URSI website.

URSI is looking for other sponsors for URSI (e.g. universities).

## 12) Remarks by the URSI Vice-President (Doherty)

We are planning a WIRS event for the next AT-AP-RASC symposium. Please contact her if you have any questions.

## 13) Report by the URSI Assistant Secretary General – Publications (Stone)

The URSI Centenary Book is available as a downloadable PDF for free, or a printed copy can be ordered for 36 euros. The upcoming URSI flagship meetings were listed. John Volakis: Are the dates for more future RASC conferences available? Ross: Not yet.

## 14) Report by the USNC-URSI Publications Coordinator (Stone)

Due to Ross Stone and Mike Newkirk's efforts, NSF can now pay USNC-URSI dues directly to international URSI.

## 15) Report by the JMC USNC-URSI Coordinator (Stone)

Ross Stone presented statistics on recent symposia, an update on the upcoming Denver symposium, and information on future symposia and meetings. The deadline for the Denver conference is pushed out by a month (Feb. 11, 2022).

Ross moved to approve four future joint symposia (2023 Portland, 2025 Ottawa, 2026 Michigan, and 2028 San Diego). The motion was passed. George Uslenghi asked how the funds will be divided for the next North American Radio Science Meeting. Ross Stone responded the he has not heard any discussion about changing the distribution when inside North America (so Appendix 2 will apply, the \$66k).

## 16) Remarks 2022 IEEE AP-S President (Lazzi)

Prof. Lazzi is excited to continue collaborating with USNC-URSI.

## 17) Remarks by the CNC-URSI Chair (Michelson)

IEEE AP-S/URSI 2025 will be held in Ottawa, Canada. They are starting a WIRS chapter. They have formed several joint AP-S / URSI chapters. One of the resolutions that was passed in Rome at URSI GASS was that we should strengthen the URSI and ITU relationship.

## 18) Report by the NAS Staff Representative (Ferrerias)

NSF has a lot of funding for early career scientists and diversity efforts, so now is a good time to approach them for funds in these areas. Gary Brown: Can you say anything about NSF's interest in spectrum management. Chris: John Chapin was hired at NSF to lead all the efforts on spectrum. Ashley: Look at the NSF Spectrum Management Initiative:

[https://nsf.gov/mps/oma/spectrum\\_innovation\\_initiative.jsp](https://nsf.gov/mps/oma/spectrum_innovation_initiative.jsp)

# USNC-URSI Business Meeting Minutes

4 January 2022

## **19) Comments by the National Academies Representative, Members-at-Large, Society Representatives, Government Liaisons**

No comments.

## **20) Preliminary report on the 2022 NRSM statistics (Simpson / Newkirk)**

The total submissions were 342 in 2019, 236 in 2021, and 2022 in 309. About 50% will be presented online this year. Also about 50% are member/non-members vs. ECMs/Students/Retirees. There were 21 special sessions. There were 365 registrations in 2019, 361 in 2020, and 368 in 2022.

## **21) Plenary Session and Special Sessions for the 2023 NRSM in Boulder (Newkirk)**

Please think of plenary topics for next year. Session chairs might refer back to their ideas for plenary sessions from previous years (topics that were not selected).

Please organize special sessions for next year. Commission Chairs must confirm that their organizers will actually chair the sessions.

## **22) Action Items for the Commission Business Meetings (Simpson)**

Slides will be provided to the Commission chairs, summarizing the announcements and discussion items.

## **23) Old Business**

None

## **24) New Business**

Gary Brown: Can we use Whova to obtain statistics about the presentations, attendance, etc.? Mike Newkirk: The sessions will be recorded, so people can go back and watch presentations through the end of January. Whova will tell us how many people attend each session and who goes back and watches videos.

Commission J has elected a vice chair.

## **25) Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:12pm MST (M: Stone; S: Brown).