

USNC-URSI NRSM Commission J Business Meeting

January 9, 2019 at 17:00 MST

Attendees

1. Emmanuel Fonseca (non-member)
2. Sylas Ashton (member)
3. Rob Selina (member)
4. James Jackson (member)
5. Alyson Ford (member)
6. Steven Durand (member)
7. Tom Maccarone (non-member)
8. Frank Schinzel (member)
9. Nithyanandan Thyagarayanan (member)
10. Greg Taylor (member)
11. Tracy Clarke (member)
12. Jason Ling (non-member)
13. Tom Dolch (non-member)
14. Alex Hegedus (non-member)
15. Larry D'Addario (non-member)
16. Yahya Rahmat-Samii (member)
17. Anastasia Kuske (non-member)
18. Jeff Mangum (member)
19. Emmanuel Momjian (non-member)
20. Preshanth Jagannathan (member)
21. Jayce Dowell (member)

Election of New Members

The following membership nominations were put forth for consideration (type of membership, member, associate member, or early career member, and person nominating given in parentheses):

- Sylas Ashton (M: Steve Durand)
- Tracy Clarke (M: Greg Taylor)
- Jayce Dowell (M: Greg Taylor)
- Preshanth Jagannathan (A: Jeff Mangum)

Supporting comments from each nominator were heard. Larry D'Addario recommended that Preshanth be promoted to Associate member rather than the Early Career level to which he applied. All agreed. After nominator statements the membership voted on each candidacy. All were elected as members of Commission J in the designated category.

Nat Gopalswamy had submitted an application for membership in Commission J, but as neither he nor his nominator (Patricia Doherty) were not able to attend the meeting (presumably due to the US Government shutdown), it was decided to delay his election until the next Commission J business meeting.

Items From the USNC-URSI Committee Meeting Requiring Commission Discussion

Nomination process:

- Application: Applications go to admin which then goes to commission chair
- Membership was encouraged to apply for International URSI membership

Jim: Anything to do after becoming International URSI member? Not much except keeping contact info current.

The optimal dates at UC Boulder for the 2021 NRSM are 6-8 Jan 2021. Provide feedback on issues/concerns with those dates

- No NRSM in January 2020 due to NARSM in Montreal (July 2020)
- AAS Meeting (Phoenix): 2021 January 3-7
- Even though we have the usual overlap between URSI and AAS, overlap is not as extreme for 2021. Membership grudgingly concurred with suggested dates for 2021 NRSM

Remind members of the 2020 North American Radio Science Meeting in Montreal. There will be no NRSM in Boulder in January 2020. All commissions are expected to participate and hold business meetings in Montreal as they would at NRSMs.

How to engage students at Business meetings?

Students seem to not come to business meetings, not sure about the value in attending one.

- How can we make it more interesting for students and postdocs?
- Not clear who can come or not, perhaps a barrier.
- Make it clearer that anyone can participate.
- Ask advisor to advise.
- Session chair can make an announcement encouraging students to attend at beginning of a session.
- Don't let people leave (!) after the last talk of the session before the business meeting.
- All students getting travel reimbursement should attend the business meeting.
- Explain what business meeting is.

USB contents on conference website this year. Does URSI continue to need to provide the presentation abstracts on the USB drive?

- zip files don't work on phones, just keep a PDF file
- Webpage does not load well on a phone, formatting issues.
- Have all files on webpage in place of the zip file
- Individual links for each talk?

Results from the latest (2018) meeting attendee survey were presented and discussed.

Would your commission participate in following joint summer meetings? These are in addition to the winter meeting in Boulder, CO.

- Difference between Denver meeting (below) and the one in Montreal is that the former is more IEEE (engineering) whereas Montreal is Canadian version of the Denver URSI.
- Any international URSI and Montreal presentations count towards total count but not the ones below.
 - Singapore, July 2021: Do these come with conference publications?
 - Denver, July 2022: Maybe because it is closer (Rob Selina)?

Policy on purging inactive members:

- Purge members if they have not attended the last three years and/or when they don't respond when contacted? Or put them on "inactive" and restore "active" status when they attend? Uniform policy for all commissions?
- What's the incentive for purging? Lot of people inactive for 20 years but 3 years is too short. "Inactive" list seems a better intermediate list and inform them of their status.

Conference statistics:

- Statistics remain healthy over the years in terms of papers, sessions, travel grants, etc.
- Overlap with AAS looks good for 2021, otherwise affects the statistics somewhat

Registration fee for postdocs: Reduce?

- Cost increase because of various services.
- Postdocs pay regular fees. Encourage more postdocs by reducing fees? Between student and full registration?
- Greg: Wouldn't want to reduce the revenue but then reduce the student grants. They may raise the regular fee? That's not desirable either.
- \$450 is not cheap, though it goes towards travel grants. Seems to be comparable to AAS per day.
- Non-member fee is only slightly higher, tht is welcome and appreciated.
- Miguel: Carpool, roomshare, etc. can help drop total costs and encourage more student/postdoc attendance.

Tutorials (no charge):

- Schedule is full. How to fit in the schedule?
- What format for tutorials will be most productive? Recording an expert's lecture and providing online as tutorial? Bring in speakers to give tutorials?
- Don't parallelize tutorials when something else is going on
- What goes in a tutorial? Science or career advice for talks, etc.

- Miguel: One busy day at the end? Renting or reserving a room? And invite all telescopes and their community to show up. MWA day or HERA day? Maybe on Saturday which is a reserve day?
- Video tutorial does not disrupt the schedule. Maybe a good idea?

Please encourage students and young scientists to become Early Career Members (ECMs).

Session ideas for Jan 2021 meeting:

- Cubesats? Joint with B?
- Precision polarimetry and CMB? Who could chair it? Darcy at UNM?
- VLA's 40th anniversary (Emmanual Momjian)?
- Balloon experiments in THz, etc.?
- JWST session?
- Continue Cosmology and Astrophysics at low frequencies series (Greg Taylor)? Science at Low Frequencies happens every year but when it is outside North America, hold one here. Dec 2019 SALF will be in Tempe.
- Explain decadal survey? Too early? (Steve Durand)
- Space situational awareness? Satellite tracking, track cubesats
- RFI session (Tom Maccarone), Harvey? Someone from NSF for policy perspectives?

Note that all presentations will appear online. There will be a request later for updated version of the talk and for permission.

Nithyanandan Thyagarayanan (*Commission J Secretary*)