

Minutes of the USNC/URSI Commission F Business Meeting
IEEE APS/URSI 2006
Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico
July 13, 2006

1. USNC/URSI Commission F Chair, Roger Lang, called the meeting to order at 1805 MDT.
2. Members in attendance were: Gary Brown, Rama Janaswamy, Saba Mudaliar and Roger Lang along with George Uslenghi and 2 other guests.
3. Roger Lang began the session with an overview of the last Commission F business meeting held in January 2006 at the National Radio Science meeting, Boulder, CO. He displayed the agenda for that meeting and pointed out that the General Assembly (GA) was held in New Delhi, India in Oct. 2005. He remarked that the student paper contest at the National Radio Science meeting has been a big success.
4. There was a discussion about the Commission B Triennial conference on Electromagnetic Theory. It was pointed out that it would be held in Ottawa in July 2007. Members brought up the question of the triennial conference for Commission F. Rama Janaswamy informed the meeting that the last triennial meeting of Commission F was held in Australia in 2004.
5. Roger Lang gave an account of the number of papers and posters presented at this year's APS/URSI/AMEREM joint symposium. He noted that the URSI contribution of papers was about 20%.
6. George Uslenghi had several announcements to make:
 - a. He informed us that there will not be the usual Boulder meeting in January 2007. Instead, the USNC and CNC will have a joint North American Meeting in Ottawa during July 2007. APS will have their annual symposium separately in Hawaii during June 2007. He displayed the green flyer (URSI 2007 announcement) and said it contained all the detailed information about the various commission chairs and their programs. The meeting will be held on 22-26 July 2007 at Fairmont Chateau Laurier in Ottawa.
 - b. He noted that the Commission B triennial meeting on Electromagnetic Theory will be held at the same hotel during July 26-28, 2007. George Uslenghi noted that there will be several people who might attend both meetings.
 - c. He mentioned that the next URSI meeting following the Ottawa meeting will be the National Radio Science meeting at Boulder, CO in January 2008.
 - d. George also said that the URSI General Assembly will be held in Chicago during August 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Student support will be an important feature. Any student (from any country) who is the first author of an accepted paper will be provided with accommodation at Hyatt (worth \$1000).

7. Roger Lang pointed out that about 70 students participated in the Boulder meeting earlier this year and URSI spent considerable funds to support the students. The question whether the student paper program be extended to undergraduates was brought up. Gary Brown declared that it should be restricted to graduate students only because the cost will become prohibitively high if we also let undergraduates participate.
8. Roger Lang suggested that the special sessions for the next year's URSI meeting in Ottawa should be announced well in advance. He outlined 5 special sessions for Commission F: Wireless Propagation (Rama Janaswamy), Propagation over Water (Mike Newkirk), Outdoor Mobile (Saul Torrico), Rough Surface Scattering (Gary Brown) and Propagation in Complex Environments (Saba Mudaliar and Dev Palmer).
9. The chair observed that there is the unfortunate overlap of the URSI 2007 meeting to be held in Ottawa and the IGARSS 2007 meeting to be held in Barcelona. Several people who will present papers at Commission F sessions will also be interested in participating in IGARSS. It is desirable that such conflicts be avoided in future. The IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society announces IGARSS well in advance. The places and dates of future IGARSS meetings until 2010 are already posted in the GRS newsletter. Therefore, URSI can plan future summer meetings without any overlapping dates.

Minutes recorded by Saba Mudaliar and edited by Roger Lang and Steve Reising.