



International Union of Radio Science U.S. Commission B

D. R. Jackson, Chair
N. Engheta, Vice-Chair
S. Rengarajan, Secretary

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MINUTES Commission B Business meeting
2008 National Radio Science Meeting
Boulder, CO
January 3, 2008

1. Chair D. R. Jackson called the meeting to order at 18:00 hrs. He welcomed all members and guests. Attendance list is provided at the end of the minutes.
2. The minutes of the July 23, 2007 meeting of Commission B held at Ottawa, Canada were approved.

Chair's Report

3. The chair showed the list of USNC/Commission B officers, USNC officers, International URSI B officers, and International URSI officers. The officers are listed in the websites listed below. The USNC Commission B website also contains the minutes of the meetings dating back to 1997.

<http://www.ece.uic.edu/~URSICommb/> (USNC Commission B website)

<http://www.usnc-ursi.org/> (USNC website)

<http://www.ursi.org/B/index.htm> (Intl. URSI Commission B website)

<http://www.ursi.org/> (Intl. URSI website)

4. Upcoming meetings are:

- IEEE AP-S/URSI Symposium, San Diego, CA, July 5-11, 2008.
- URSI General Assembly, Chicago, IL, Aug. 7-16, 2008.
- National Radio Science Meeting, Boulder, CO, Jan. 5-7, 2009.

Additional future meetings may be found on the AP-S website (<http://www.ieeeaps.org/>) as well as the URSI websites listed above.

5. Notes on 2008 IEEE APS URSI Symposium in San Diego, CA:

- The deadline for submissions is Jan. 15, 2008. The call for papers is available here.
- Ross Stone invited members to attend the San Diego symposium.

6. Notes on 2008 URSI General Assembly in Chicago, IL:

- The deadline for submissions is Jan. 31, 2008.
- Free hotel rooms will be provided to all full-time U.S. students who are first authors and presenters of papers (based on double occupancy).
- There is no participant support (Delegates) this time.
- There will be support provided for USNC members that are designated as Young Scientists by URSI.
- The URSI GA does not come to the U.S. very often (this is the fourth time in its history) – we need to make a good showing!
- There will be a student paper contest (run by Steve Reising). The deadline is the same – Jan. 31 – for the full paper (25pp. limit). Five awards will be made.
- The oral presentations will mainly be for invited papers in sessions organized by the conveners.
- There is essentially unlimited room for posters.
- If you would like to organize a poster session, please contact the poster-session General Chairs (Aldo Petosa, aldo.petosa@crc.ca or David R. Jackson, djackson@uh.edu).
- If you would like to volunteer to be a Chair at a poster session, please contact one of the poster-session General Chairs and indicate your topic of interest.
- George Uslenghi stated that the organization of the General Assembly is going well. Plenty of money has been raised. Part of the surplus will go to the USNC and the rest to the International URSI. He emphasized the need to have a strong showing since this is only the fourth time the General Assembly is held in the US. The authors should indicate their preference for poster/oral presentations. Some posters may be changed to oral and vice versa by the organizers.
- J. Volakis stated that organizers may choose some submitted papers for special sessions. There was a discussion on oral papers and poster papers.

7. Discussion Item 1:

- A new Vice Chair of USNC-B needs to be in place by the time of the General Assembly (Aug. 7-16, 2008).
- Please send suggestions to the USNC Chair (David Jackson).
- David Jackson and Nader Engheta will discuss this.
- An electronic ballot will be held soon (another month or two, maybe).

8. Discussion Item 2:

- Steve Reising will be stepping down as Chair of the URSI student paper contest.
- Please give suggestions for Steve Reising's replacement to George Uslenghi.

MSP: Commission B wishes to thank Steve Reising for doing an outstanding job in organizing the Student Paper Contests in the URSI meetings.

9. Discussion Item 3:

The terms of USNC at large members Jennifer Bernhard, Nader Engheta, Bob Gardner, Susan Hagness and Steve Reising have expired on Dec. 31, 2007. Please give your suggestions for replacements to Yahya Rahmat-Samii.

10. Discussion Item 4:

The term of USNC secretary Yahya Rahmat-Samii expires in 2008. Please give your suggestions for replacement to Yahya Rahmat-Samii.

11. Discussion Item 5:

Do members prefer the new CD ROM format?

There was a discussion on USB drive instead of CD and “scaled back” version of paper digest. Members felt that CD’s were easy to store whereas USB was easy to use. It was felt that the paper digest is expensive.

12. Discussion Item 6:

There was a discussion on a suggestion to change the dates of the Boulder Radio Science Meeting to Spring Break (sometime in March) due to conflict with winter holidays, etc. Other possible venues were also discussed. It was the sense of the members to keep the current January meeting schedule and the UC Boulder location since the meeting rooms are free at UC Boulder. Moving the meeting to spring break will make it too close to the summer APS/URSI meeting.

13. MSP: The Commission B thanks Bill Davis for his incredible performance within severe time constraint in maintaining the meeting website and for burning the Conference CD’s after the person in charge of the conference website software left.

Committee Reports

14. S. Hagness presented the membership committee report. The committee members are J. W. Mink, L. Kempel, D. R. Wilton and S. Hagness (chair).

There was a brief review of qualifications for membership. She encouraged members to nominate senior graduate students and young scientists for associate membership.

The present guidelines for membership are as follows:

- Associate Member
 - 1-2 single-author articles with 2-3 publications overall
 - two URSI presentations (at least one in Commission B)
- Full Member
 - 3-4 single-author articles with 5-6 publications overall
 - three URSI presentations (at least two in Commission B)

Dr. Chris Holloway (NIST) was nominated and approved unanimously for full membership.

15. J. L. Volakis, the chair of the Technical Activities Committee presented a report. He reviewed the URSI B sessions in the Boulder meeting. There were 315 papers in all commissions whereas Commission B papers were 94 and there were 64 commission B papers in joint special sessions. There were seven B sessions and seven joint special sessions. There was a slight increase in the number of commission B papers since 2005. In the 2007 North American Radio Science Meeting in Ottawa, the number of URSI-B only (non-joint) papers was 239 and the total number of URSI-B papers (including joint special session) was 325. The total number of URSI-B papers including the joint special sessions for the 2006 and 2005 summer meetings was 330 and 443, respectively. In the 2008 APS/URSI San Diego Symposium, 14 special sessions were accepted out of 38 proposals. Six of these were AP sessions, two were URSI-B sessions, and the remaining were joint APS/URSI-B sessions. There was a discussion on special sessions. P. Uslenghi stated that some commissions have only special sessions in Boulder. Y. Rahmat-Samii suggested that we shouldn't bring the same people to the special sessions but attract newer people. Both Rahmat-Samii and Volakis felt that special sessions will have a greater impact in the Boulder meetings. Gary Brown stated that people from Math and Physics community participate in sessions on rough-surface scattering. N. Engheta stated that the special-session organizers should be active. J. Volakis stated that one of the goals of the special sessions should be to have excellent speakers.

16. Old Business: None

17. New Business: None

18. The meeting was adjourned at 19:00 hours.

Guests in Attendance

Jimmy Alatishe, Ferhat Celepcikay, Giuseppe Garluccio, Taeyoung Yang

Members in Attendance

Prof. Carl E. Baum, Prof. Gary S. Brown, Prof. William A. Davis, Prof. Nader Engheta, Prof. Danilo Erricolo, Dr. David V. Giri, Prof. Susan C. Hagness, Dr. Gregory Huff, Prof. Tatsuo Itoh, Prof. David R. Jackson, Dr. Ozlem Kilic, Prof. Roger H. Lang, Prof. Sharad R. Laxpati, Dr. Gianluca Lazzi, Prof. Hossein Mosallaei, Prof. L. Wilson Pearson, Dr. Ronald J. Pogorzelski, Prof. Yahya Rahmat-Samii, Prof. Sembiam R. Rengarajan, Prof. Roberto G. Rojas, Dr. W. Ross Stone, Prof. Piergiorgio. L. E. Uslenghi, Prof. John L. Volakis, Dr. Wasyl Wasylkiwskyj, Prof. Donald R. Wilton, Dr. Arthur Yaghjian, Prof. Richard W. Ziolkowski

Respectfully submitted by
Sembiam R. Rengarajan
Secretary