



**International Union of Radio Science    U.S. Commission B**

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D. R. Jackson, Chair  
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**MINUTES    Commission B Business meeting**  
2007 North American Radio Science Meeting  
Ottawa, Canada  
July 23, 2007

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 10, 2006 meeting of Commission B held at Albuquerque, NM were approved subject to a correction that Ross Stone's name be added to the attendance list.

**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:

- URSI EM Theory Symposium, Ottawa, Canada, July 27-28 (Friday-Saturday), 2007.
- AP-S/URSI San Diego, CA, July 5-11, 2008.
- National Radio Science Meeting, Boulder, CO, Jan. 2-6, 2008.
- URSI General Assembly, Chicago, IL, Aug. 9-16, 2008

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 Boulder meeting:

- The deadline for submissions is Oct. 12, 2007.
- There will be a \$590 student travel grant available for full-time students from U.S. institutions who are first authors and presenters.
- There will be a student paper contest (run by Steve Reising).

6. Notes on 2008 URSI General Assembly:

- The deadline for submissions is Jan. 31, 2008.
- There will be a \$1,000 student support available for full-time students from U.S. institutions who are first authors and presenters, in the form of a free hotel room at the Hyatt (based on double occupancy).
- There will be a student paper contest, run by Steve Reising. There will be 5 top winners instead of 3.

7. Discussion Item 1:

Do we wish to continue with paper abstract booklets at the Boulder meetings, or switch to CDs?

The cost for paper booklets is about \$8,000. CDs will probably be cheaper.

However, convenience and benefits to our members is the key issue.

An overwhelming majority of members indicated their preference for CD's. A majority of members want the abstracts to be available online for easy download before the meeting.

8. Discussion Item 2:

We need suggestions now for special sessions for Boulder 2008. George Uslenghi needs input by this Thursday morning. Members were asked to give inputs to John Volakis or David Jackson by Wednesday evening.

Yahya Rahmat-Samii raised the question of originality of special sessions when similar people organize special sessions on similar topics.

John Volakis stated that there is a proliferation of workshops and meetings. There is a need to promote URSI participation and organized sessions have a big impact.

9. C. Butler is chairing a committee to nominate candidates for the next Vice President of International URSI and the next Vice Chair of International URSI Commission B. Recommendations should be sent to Chalmers Butler (cbutler@ces.clemson.edu ) by e-mail.

### **Committee Reports**

10. L. Kempel 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 discussion of qualifications for membership. The present guidelines 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)

The issue was raised as to whether the membership requirement should also stipulate evidence of continuing involvement with URSI. However, it was noted that the existing qualifications are only guidelines for the USNC-B Membership Committee, and this committee is free to make its recommendations to the membership as it sees fit. Therefore, no changes to the existing guidelines were adopted.

Dr. Jamesina Simpson (University of New Mexico), and Dr. Stephen Schneider (Air Force Research Laboratory) were nominated for Associate Membership and Dr. Gregory Huff (Texas A & M University), Dr. Kubilay Sertel (Ohio State University) and Dr. Cynthia Furse (University of Utah) were nominated for full membership. After some discussion Dr. Jamesina Simpson was approved for Associate Membership and Drs. Schneider, Huff, Sertel and Furse were approved for full membership.

- 11.** J. L. Volakis, the chair of the Technical Activities Committee presented a report. He reviewed the URSI B sessions in the Ottawa meeting. There were 325 papers in the Ottawa meeting out of which 239 were commission B only papers. There were 38 commission B papers in joint sessions and 48 papers in special sessions. There were 15 special sessions originally planned and 13 of them were actually formed, with 3 special sessions in honor of Leo Felsen. He stated that special sessions have played an important role and thanked the organizers and contributors of the special sessions. J. Volakis presented year to year statistics. In 2006 there were 330 URSI B papers including special and joint sessions. In 2005 there were 443 URSI B papers including joint AP-S sessions whereas 307 papers were URSI B only.
- 12.** J. L. Volakis discussed special sessions for future meetings. He said that USNC URSI-B TAC committee has no official role in future APS/URSI joint meetings. However, the joint APS/URSI special sessions committee has two appointed URSI representatives. In 2006, of the 8 sessions, 2 were URSI designated. He raised a question whether TAC should have a permanent representative on the APS/URSI joint committee. D. Jackson stated that it would be a good idea for the TAC chair to be a permanent member of the special sessions committee. P. Uslenghi stated that this issue has been discussed in the past, and the decision was not to adopt this policy, out of fairness to the other commissions.
- 13.** Old Business: None

**14.** New Business: None

**15.** The meeting was adjourned at 19:00 hours.

### **Guests in Attendance**

Reyhan Baktur, Thaddeus H. Black, Stefano M. Canta, Natalie Cartwright, Sermsak Jaruwatanadilok, Robert Paknys, Kubilay Sertel, Jamesina Simpson, Paul Smith, Taeyoung Yang.

### **Members in Attendance**

Dr. Ezekiel Bahar, Prof. Carl E. Baum, Dr. Shira Lynn Broschat, Dr. Gary S. Brown, Prof. Chalmers M. Butler, Dr. William A. Davis, Prof. Danilo Erricolo, Prof. Akira Ishimaru, Prof. David R. Jackson, Prof. Ramakrishna Janaswamy, Prof. Leo C. Kempel, Dr. Ahmed Kishk, Prof. Edward F. Kuester, Dr. Gianluca Lazzi, Prof. Hossein Mosallaei, Dr. Kurt Edmund Oughstun, Prof. Yahya Rahmat-Samii, Dr. Sembiam R. Rengarajan, Dr. Roberto G. Rojas, Dr. Edward J. Rothwell, Dr. Tapan Sarkar, Prof. Thomas B. A. Senior, Dr. S. R. Seshadri, Dr. Balasubriamianiam Shanker, Dr. W. Ross Stone, Prof. Erdem Topsakal, Prof. Piergiorgio. L. E. Uslenghi, Prof. John L. Volakis, Prof. Daniel Weile, Dr. Amir I. Zaghoul

Respectfully submitted by  
Sembiam R. Rengarajan  
Secretary