

USNC-URSI Commission F Business Meeting

January 4, 2012
Boulder, Colorado

Minutes recorded by Michael H. Newkirk
Vice Chair, USNC-URSI Commission F

1. Call to Order and Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by V. Chandrasekar at 5:10 pm.

2. Approval of 2011 business meeting minutes (January 5, 2011, Boulder)

Forwarded by Mike Newkirk to USNC Commission F members on 12/13/11. These minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Circulation of Sign-in Sheets and Membership Contact Lists

4. USNC Officers for 2012-2014 Triennium

USNC-URSI, 2012-2014

- Steven Reising – Chair
- David Jackson – Secretary
- Yahya Rahmat-Samii – Past Chair
- Gary Brown – Accounts Manager
- Janet Stapleton – Member-at-Large and Commission F Member

Web site is <http://www.usnc-ursi.org> .

USNC-URSI Commission F, 2012-2014

- V. Chandrasekar –Chair
- Mike Newkirk – Vice-Chair
- Kamal Sarabandi – Secretary
- Saba Mudaliar – Membership Chair
- Ray Wasky – Webmaster

International URSI, 2012-2014

- George Uslenghi – Vice-President, International URSI
- Bill Davis –Chair, URSI Commission A
- David Giri – Vice-Chair, Commission E
- Roger Lang – Chair, Commission F
- John Matthews – Chair, Commission G
- Meers Oppenheim, Vice-Chair, Commission H
- Ross Stone, Assistant Secretary General (Publications) & Chair, Standing Committee on Publications

5. Announcements

In Memoriam – USNC Members who passed away in 2011:

- Dr. Julius Goldhirsh (Commission F)
- Prof. David Staelin (Commission F)
- Dr. Donald Thompson (Commission F)
- Prof. Robert Helliwell (Commission G)
- Dr. James Baker-Jarvis (Commission A)

A moment of silence to be observed during the Plenary Session on Thursday.

6. USNC Status

USNC finances: \$277K positive as of 11/30/11.

- Income \$186K (includes \$67K from 2011 IEEE-APS/USNC-URSI Meeting)
- Expenses \$42K
- Sources: NSF and income from meetings
- Budget detailed by Gary Brown, USNC Accounts Manager

7. Commission F Membership Nominations

Saba Mudaliar presented the qualifications for two new candidates: Victor Russell Wiss (sponsored by Janet Stapleton) and Katherine L. Horgan (sponsored by Rob Marshall). Both sponsors made statements in support of their nominees. Both met the qualifications for membership, and both were elected new members of Commission F.

8. Meetings

A. Past Meetings (2011)

USNC-URSI National Radio Science Meeting, January 5-8, 2011

- Abstracts: 358 (vs 347 final in 2010)
- Registrations: 347 as of 1/4/11 (vs 380 final in 2010, 257 in 2009)
- Sessions: 49 (vs 45 in 2010, 36 in 2009)
- Commission F: 10 organized special sessions, 3 joint sessions (GHF, FJE), 62 total papers (vs. 66 in 2010, 31 in 2009), including one student paper competition finalist (average of 53 papers per year)
- Plenary: Special session in memory of William Gordon, Organized by USNC Officers Rahmat-Samii and Reising
- Student travel fellowship grants (\$600 for 1st author students from US universities), 113 supported students (vs. 97 in 2010, 66 in 2009).
- Ernest K. Smith Student Paper Contest: 13 papers submitted (vs. 13 in 2010). Awards of \$1000, \$750, and \$500 + travel expenses to be provided. Three Commission F papers submitted (same as in 2010 – great record!). One Commission F paper selected

as one of the three finalists in the 2011 student paper competition (others from B,H). Contest organized by Danilo Erricolo.

IEEE-APS/USNC-URSI, 3-8 July 2011, Spokane, WA

IGARSS 2011, 24-29 July 2011, Vancouver, Canada

30th URSI GASS, 13-20 August, Istanbul, Turkey

- 4 of 5 awards given to US recipients
- 1304 submissions, 1299 accepted (~12% lower than 2008 in Chicago)
- 92 papers by Commission F (95 in 2008)

12th URSI Commission F Triennial Open Symposium on Radio Wave Propagation and Remote Sensing, 8-11 March 2011, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Alpine-Bavaria, Germany

4th IEEE International Symposium on Microwave, Antenna, and Propagation and EMC Technologies for Wireless Communications (MAPE 2011), 1-3 November 2011, Beijing, China

International Conference on EM in Advanced Applications and IEEE-APS Topical Conference on Antennas and Propagation in Wireless Communications (ICEAA-IEEE APWC), 12-17 September 2011, Torino, Italy

2011 AGU Fall Meeting – 5-9 December 2011, San Francisco, CA

B. Present Meeting

USNC-URSI National Radio Science Meeting, January 4-7, 2012

- Abstracts: 369 (vs. 358 final in 2011)
- Registrations: 350 as of 12/29/11 (vs. 347 final in 2011, 380 final in 2010)
- Sessions: 47 (vs. 49 in 2011, 45 in 2010)
- Commission F: 7 organized/special sessions, 2 joint sessions (GHF), 64 total papers (vs. 62 in 2011, 66 in 2010)
- Plenary: GNSS & RS (Commissions G&H)
- Student travel fellowship grants (\$600 for 1st author students from US universities), 104 supported students (vs. 113 in 2011, 97 in 2010).
- Ernest K. Smith Student Paper Contest: 19 papers submitted (vs. 13 in 2011). Awards of \$1000, \$750, and \$500 + travel expenses to be provided. Two Commission F papers submitted. Contest organized by Danilo Erricolo.

Commission F Sessions:

- F1: Passive Remote Sensing of the Earth's Environment: Radiometer Calibration and Radiative Transfer
 - Co-Chairs: Steven Reising and Albin Gasiewski (8 papers)
- F2: Passive Remote Sensing of the Earth's Environment: Sensors and Missions
 - Co-Chairs: Albin J. Gasiewski and Steven C. Reising (10 papers)
- F3: Radar Remote Sensing of Precipitation

- Co-Chairs: Guifu Zhang and V. Chandrasekar (7 papers)
- F4: Waves in Random and Complex Media
 - Co-Chairs: Saba Mudaliar and Akira Ishimaru (10 papers)
- F5: Mesoscale Numerical Weather Prediction in Support of Wave Propagation Modeling
 - Co-Chairs: Tracy Haack and Robert Marshall (10 papers)
- F6: Radio Frequency Interference Identification and Mitigation
 - Co-Chairs: David Kunkee and Jennifer Bernhard (10 papers)
- F7: Active Remote Sensing and Propagation Measurements and Models
 - Co-Chairs: V. Chandrasekar and Valery Zavorotny (9 papers)
- GHF1: Global Navigation Satellite Systems and Radio Beacon Remote Sensing I
 - Co-Chairs: Carl Siefring, Charles Carrano and Valery Zavorotny (9 papers)
- GHF2: Global Navigation Satellite Systems and Radio Beacon Remote Sensing II
 - Co-Chairs: Valery Zavorotny, Carl Siefring and Charles Carrano (4 papers)

C. Future URSI & Related Meetings

IEEE AP-S International Symposium & USNC-URSI National Radio Science Meetings:

- 2012 – Chicago, IL, USA, 8-14 July
 - USNC Commission F will participate in this meeting.
- 2013 – Orlando, FL, USA, 7-13 July
- 2014 – Memphis, TN, USA, 6-12 July
- 2015 – Vancouver, Canada, 17-25 July
 - This will be a North American Radio Science Meeting, so there will be no 2015 Boulder NRSM
- 2016 – San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 2017 – San Diego, CA

IEEE International Geoscience & Remote Sensing Symposia (IGARSS):

- 2012 – Munich, Germany, 22-27 July
- 2013 – Melbourne, Australia, 21-26 July
- 2014 – Quebec City, Canada, TBD July

Note: IGARSS moving to notional three-year (Americas, Europe/Middle East/Africa, and Asia/Pacific) rotation.

International Conference on EM in Advanced Applications – IEEE-APS Topical Conference on Antennas and Propagation in Wireless Communications (ICEAA-IEEE APWC) – Cape Town, South Africa, 2-7 September 2012

International Symposium on Antennas, Propagation and EM Theory (ISAPE) – Xi'an, China, 22-26 October 2012

MicroRAD 2012, Frascati, Italy, 5-9 March 2012

USNC-URSI NRSM – Boulder, 7-11 January 2013 (proposed)

URSI Triennial Symposium on Radiowave Propagation and Remote Sensing, Ottawa, Canada, Late April-Early May, 2013

Remote Sensing of Microwave Signatures Meeting, Helsinki, Finland, Fall 2013

2014 URSI General Assembly – Beijing, China, August 2014

9. New Business

None

10. USNC-URSI Action Items

Commission F Special Session titles and co-organizers (two required for each) for the 2013 USNC-URSI National Radio Science Meeting are needed as soon as possible. Please send them to Chandra and Mike.

Specific Questions from USNC-URSI:

1. Do you have suggestions for USNC-URSI in handling authors who cannot attend the National Radio Science Meeting, but request to send pre-recorded video/audio presentations?
 - Concern was expressed on the effect on the conference quality if this was a standard option. Face-to-face discussion is important.
 - Members generally felt this should only be used in case of emergency.
 - In those cases, could a telecom be arranged to permit presenter to answer questions?
 - Perhaps there should be a surcharge for this, to offset potential increased cost of providing technology to enable it.
 - A DoD attendee pointed out that travel budgets are becoming more constrained and teleconferencing is being encouraged to deal with this limitation.
2. Does your Commission have ideas for improving the status of membership in a USNC-URSI Commission, to make membership more valuable?
 - Response combined w/ #3
3. Does your Commission support the idea of creating a new status of “URSI Fellow,” analogous to IEEE Fellow? What about creating Distinguished Lecturers for each USNC-URSI Commission, analogous to IEEE Distinguished Lecturers?
 - It was pointed out that URSI does not have individual members, only member nations; as such, USNC could do this on their own.
 - Straw poll showed 10-12 in favor of exploring this option. One member was opposed, as he felt the status was meaningless.
 - There was concern expressed on the effort and process for determining such recognition; IEEE Fellow process was cited.
 - How would the cost of travel for Distinguished Lecturer be supported? Some members did not want to put support for students at risk.

4. Will your Commission participate in the 2013 IEEE AP-S/URSI Meeting to be held in Orlando from 7-13 July 2013? (In 2012 in Chicago, it has already been decided that Commissions A-G and K will participate.)
 - Yes (a motion to participate was passed unanimously)
5. Does your Commission have any comments on the URSI General Assembly and Scientific Symposia (GASS)? What about the number of invited versus contributed oral sessions at the GASS?
 - Some liked the concept of invited sessions, but not the long lead time required to get the topics identified and approved. This does not allow for late-breaking topics of interest to be addressed.
 - Roger Lang (as International URSI Commission F Chair) intends to make Commission F topic selection much more collaborative with his National Committees than has been done in the past. He doesn't see as much committee activity for this as he'd like.
6. Does your Commission have suggestions for Plenary Session topics that you can lead along with another Commission? Topics should be timely and with potential for broad appeal among many URSI Commissions.
 - Numerical weather prediction for assessing propagation and EMI (perhaps w/ E)
 - Overview of recent scientific satellite launches (not sure which other commission to co-lead)
 - Protection of radio spectrum usage (note that 2006 plenary was on spectrum management; this is still a relatively hot topic)
 - Remote sensing of environment for climate change monitoring
 - Energy-related topics; e.g., solar powered satellites. There is some controversy in this area so a pair of speakers (one pro, one con) could be interesting
7. Does your Commission have a preference for the dates of the 2013 USNC-URSI National Radio Science Meeting? The options for technical sessions are Wednesday through Friday, January 9-11, or Thursday through Saturday, January 10-12.
 - Wednesday-Friday preferred
8. Does your Commission have any comments for the USNC-URSI leadership, focused on how the National Radio Science Meeting is conducted?
 - It was appreciated that Commission F sessions were not overlapping this year.
9. Are there any comments for International URSI?
 - There have been requests from other agencies/societies for URSI to get more involved in "disaster management." International URSI may want to discuss whether to make this an area to push into.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm

Attendance List

Commission F Members

Bill Blackwell
Gary Brown
V. Chandrasekar
Al Gasiewski
Jonathan Gehman
Tracy Haack
Thomas Hanley
David Hill
Katherine Horgan*
Vladimir Irisov
David Kunkee
Roger Lang
Robert Marshall
Saba Mudaliar
Michael Newkirk
Bill Plant
Steven Reising
Christopher Ruf
Dean Smith
Fred Solheim
Janet Stapleton
Ross Stone
Viatcheslav Tatarski
Alexander Voronovich
Jothiram Vivekanandan
Ed Walsh
Victor Wiss*
Valery Zavorotny
Guifu Zhang

Guests

Jimmy Alatishe
Darrin Albers
Kathie Bailey-Mathae
Chris Barnes
Xavier Bosch
Kyle Gilliam
Brad Lindseth
Sidharth Misra
Scott Nelson
Swaroop Sahoo
Caglar Yardim
Yiwen Zhao

*Indicates newly elected member