

## **USNC-URSI Business Meeting Minutes**

January 3, 2012

Millennium Harvest House Hotel, Century Room  
Boulder, Colorado

### **1) Call to Order and Introductions (Steve Reising)**

Steve Reising called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He reminded the USNC-URSI committee (the “Committee”) that the voting membership of the Committee consists of 4 officers, 6 members-at-large, 10 commission chairs, 7 U.S. officers of URSI, and 6 society representatives. Members present were:

Steven Reising (Chair), Kathie Bailey Mathae (National Academies Representative), Jennifer Bernhard (Commission D Chair), Rich Bradley (Commission J Chair), Gary Brown (Accounts Manager), Andreas Cangellaris (Member-at-Large), V. Chandrasekar (Commission F Chair), William Davis (international URSI Commission A Chair / Web Coordinator), Danilo Erricolo (Member-at-Large / Student Travel Program and Paper Competition Chair), Everett Farr (Commission E Chair), Al Gasiewski, David Giri, Randy Haupt (IEEE AP-S representative), Chris Holloway (Commission A Chair), David Jackson (Secretary), David Kunkee (Member-at-Large), Roger Lang (URSI International Commission F Chair), Frank Lind (Commission G Chair), Dev Palmer (Member-at-Large), Victor Pasko (Commission H Chair), Yahya Rahmat-Samii (Immediate Past Chair), Sembiam Rengarajan (Commission B Chair), Janet Stapleton (Member-at-Large), Ross Stone (URSI Assistant Secretary General – Publications), Mike Sulzer (Member-at-Large), Erdem Topsakal (Commission K Chair), George Uslenghi (international URSI Vice-President), Amir Zaghloul (Commission C Chair)

Guests present were:

Larry Cohen (Commission E Vice-Chair), Mike Newkirk (Commission F Vice-Chair) and Tommy Thompson (Commission J Secretary)

### **2) Approval of Minutes (Steve Reising)**

The minutes of the 2011 meeting were approved.

### **3) Discussion of the Agenda, and Report by the Chair (Steve Reising)**

The history and purpose of URSI were reviewed, as were the recent activities of USNC-URSI. The latter includes hosting the three-day National Radio Science Meeting (NRSM), putting short descriptions of USNC-URSI and photos of leadership in the conference program, continuing the special luncheon for the student travel awardees and giving them the opportunity to talk with USNC Officers and Commission Chairs, attracting exhibitors, electing new leadership and members-at-large, enhancing interactions with international URSI as well as other national organizations (such as professional societies), assembling useful data on 2010 and 2011 meetings, transitioning to a more aggressive fund raising approach, and preparing a summary about the 2010 USNC-URSI meeting for publication in

the *IEEE Antennas and Propagation Magazine*. It was noted that there were 104 students supported to attend the present 2012 NRSM.

#### **4) Report by Immediate Past Chair (Yahya Rahmat-Samii)**

Yahya Rahmat-Samii gave highlights from his last three years as chair. He encouraged the writing of additional articles about USNC activities for the *IEEE Antennas and Propagation Magazine*. He discussed highlights from the recent URSI GASS, including the fact that Americans won 4 out of 5 major awards there. Nominations for awards are solicited one year in advance.

#### **5) Report from International URSI (George Uslenghi)**

George Uslenghi reported on the URSI GASS. The new URSI Board consists of Phil Wilkinson (President, Australia), Francois Lefevre (Past President, France), Paul Lagasse (Secretary General, Belgium), and Vice-Presidents S. Ananthakrishnan (India), M. Ando (Japan), Paul Cannon (UK), and George Uslenghi (USA). Umran Inan ran for president, but narrowly lost.

A number of USNC members are international URSI Commission Chairs or Vice-Chairs, including William Davis (Chair, Commission A), David Giri (Vice-Chair, Commission E), Roger Lang (Chair, Commission F), John Mathews (Chair, Commission G), Meers Oppenheim (Vice-Chair, Commission H). He reminded USNC-URSI Commission Chairs to be grooming people to move up in the international URSI ranks.

Paper submissions for the URSI GASS in 2008 and 2011 were compared. In 2008, 1485 papers were submitted, and 1463 were accepted. In 2011, 1304 were submitted, and 1299 accepted. A breakdown by Commission was provided.

Attendance at the 2011 URSI GASS in Istanbul was lower than the 2008 URSI GA in Chicago. Possible reasons were concern about the Middle East and economic concerns. The Committee discussed ways to increase the attendance in 2014. One of the options is having commissions organize interim meetings to keep interest strong (in years in which the URSI GASS is not held). Commission B has done this for some time, and Commission F also does it. Commission E is organizing one in September 2012 (the Electromagnetic Environment and Interference Symposium). The next URSI GASS will be held in Beijing, China in August 2014.

#### **6) Report by the Accounts Manager (Gary Brown)**

Gary Brown reviewed both the private account and the National Academies account. The private account is unrestricted, and funds come from meetings proceeds and the ARO. The National Academies account includes grants from proposals submitted to NSF, and covers international URSI dues and operating costs. He reminded members that each Commission Chair has \$3000 to spend from private fund over the course of the next three-year term, 2012-2014. Commission Chairs should send a note requesting funds to Gary, and he will

contact the National Academies to authorize processing. All funds are held by the National Academies.

In 2011, Committee revenues were \$118,699 and expenses \$42,074. The latter was largely due to travel to the URSI GASS and student travel to USNC-URSI. The balance in the private fund is now \$209,725, but this does not include \$62,178 in proceeds from the 2011 IEEE AP-S / USNC-URSI meeting in Spokane.

Current student awards for travel to the Boulder meeting run about \$58,900 per year. NSF is not funding student travel support anymore, and funding must come from the private account. While the Committee has a significant reserve, the Committee leadership is talking to ARO and others about obtaining additional funding. The committee would like to fund some member travel to the URSI GASS as well. No funding was available for that in 2011. This could have also affected U.S. attendance at the 2011 URSI GASS.

## **7) Report from the National Academies (Kathie Bailey Mathae)**

Kathie Bailey Mathae discussed where the Committee falls within the National Academies' structure. She discussed the USNC Chairs meeting, the results of the USNC-URSI student travel surveys, and the International Council for Science (ICSU) General Assembly and its various initiatives. She noted that a report from the Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences (DEPS) and the Board on Physics and Astronomy's Committee on Radio Frequencies (CORF) is being prepared and will be circulated to the Committee as soon as possible. She reminded the committee that all voting members must fill out a Bias/Conflict of Interest form. Forms were emailed to members, and extra copies were circulated at the meeting.

## **8) Comments by Members-at-Large, Society Representatives, and Government Liaisons**

Dev Palmer said that ARO is trying to coordinate with other agencies to organize additional student travel support. The DoD is currently emphasizing STEM education, and the ARO has incorporated it into their mission.

The topic of absent speakers who send in video or taped presentations generated considerable discussion. These have been allowed in the past because of personal emergencies or visa problems, but some have asked about them in lieu of travel. While some committee members support the use of these new video options, others were concerned about their effect on eventually degrading the value of the conference. Many commented on the value of personal interaction, and observed that electronic communication works best after that has occurred.

The issue was raised as to whether session chairs should check for badges on presenters to make sure that the speakers are registered at the conference. Some people have been presenting without registering. Some suggested a one-day registration option but this was rejected because (1) enforcing it in this venue is difficult, (2) only a few people would be

affected, (3) USNC-URSI wants to encourage people to attend the whole meeting, and (4) the registration fee is relatively low and has not been raised in a number of years.

The idea of USNC-URSI Fellows was raised. This has been discussed periodically in the past, and George Uslenghi reported that there has recently been some murmuring about it again at the international level.

Another possible item for consideration is the topic of USNC-URSI distinguished lecturers.

The comment was raised that membership in a Commission of USNC-URSI needs more professional recognition.

## **9) Items for Commission Business Meetings (Steve Reising)**

- Each commission needs to report on Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, as well as new members.
- Proposals for special sessions for 2013 National Radio Science Meeting.
- We need to know which commissions will participate in the 2013 IEEE AP-S / USNC-URSI summer meeting.
- Comments on the URSI GASS, including the issue of invited vs. open sessions.
- Suggestions for improving the status of membership in a USNC-URSI Commission.
- Is your Commission in favor of the idea of “URSI Fellows” or Distinguished Lecturers for each Commission?
- Issue of absent speakers being allowed to submit videos or pre-recorded talks.
- Topics for the 2013 NRSM plenary (two Commissions paired together).
- What are the preferred meeting dates for the 2013 NRSM? The choices are Wednesday-Friday, Jan. 9-11, or Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 10-12.
- Comments about the USNC-URSI National Radio Science Meeting?
- Comments for international URSI?

## **10) Preliminary Conference Results (Steve Reising and Danilo Erricolo)**

|                       | <u>2012</u> | <u>2011</u> | <u>2010</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Early                 | 158         | 159         | 173         |
| Late                  | 40          | 30          | 10          |
| Student retiree early | 134         | 146         | 127         |
| Student retiree late  | 18          | 12          | 3           |
| Total                 | 350         | 347         | 313         |

|                                    |     |     |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Parking                            | 59  | 80  | 66  |
| Box lunches                        | 119 | 122 | 102 |
| Total number of papers             | 369 | 358 | 347 |
| Total number of sessions           | 47  | 49  | 45  |
| Total number of supported students | 104 | 113 | 97  |

Danilo Erricolo discussed participation in the student paper competition and gave the breakdown by commission. There were 19 submissions. Two of the three finalists are from Commission B. The third is from Commission K. Steve Reising asked Commission Chairs to talk about the competition in their Commission business meetings.

#### 11) Report on the 2011 IEEE AP-S/USNC-URSI Meeting in Spokane, Washington (Ross Stone)

| Paper Submissions | AP-S | URSI | Total |
|-------------------|------|------|-------|
| Submitted         | 962  | 481  | 1443  |
| Rejected          | 25   | 5    | 30    |
| Accepted          | 903  | 451  | 1354  |
| No-shows          | 32   | 12   | 44    |

There were 1135 oral presentations, and 219 poster presentations. The total registration was 1448, including 673 from the USA, 102 from Canada, and 101 from Japan. The total surplus was \$279,703.85.

#### 12) Future IEEE AP-S/USNC-URSI Meetings (William Davis)

William (Bill) Davis reviewed upcoming IEEE AP-S / USNC-URSI meetings, including 2014 in Memphis and 2016 in Puerto Rico. He discussed a number of important needs, including a more uniform fee structure, an Internet café, and a small version of the printed program (to fit easily in a coat pocket). He mentioned that the North American Radio Science Meeting will be held in Vancouver in 2015, and he strongly recommended that the US and Canada agree soon on a financing formula.

One issue that was raised concerns invited vs. open (regular contributed) sessions at the URSI GASS. Most of the sessions are invited. Also, the session chairs at the URSI GASS decide the makeup of the special sessions. This gives the impression that the URSI GASS is too “closed.” Also, is the lead time for sessions too long? Maybe 18 months is too long.

#### 13) Plenary Session for the 2013 NRSM (Steve Reising)

The Commissions will be asked for suggestions on themes and sessions for the 2013 meeting. We need topics for the plenary presentations (two Commissions paired together). Do we prefer to have Sat. Jan. 12 as a meeting day? We could start on Wednesday afternoon, and go through Saturday morning as a possibility).

#### 14) Old Business (Steve Reising)

During the Thursday plenary session, Steve Reising will mention the names of those who passed away this last year. These include David Staelin, Robert Helliwell, Donald Thompson, Julius Goldhirsh, and James Baker-Jarvis. Commissions will be asked if there are additional names.

### **15) New Business (Steve Reising)**

There will be a day-long strategic planning meeting on Saturday. This will replace the usual Saturday morning Commission report meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 pm.