USNC-URSI Business Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2016 Millennium Harvest House Boulder Hotel Boulder, CO

1) Call to Order and Introductions (David Jackson)

David Jackson, the Chair of USNC-URSI, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. The following members of USNC were present at the USNC-URSI Business Meeting.

USNC Officers

David R. Jackson (Chair)
Sembiam Rengarajan (Secretary and Chair-Elect)
Steven Reising (Immediate Past Chair)
Gary Brown (Accounts Manager)

National Academies Staff (non-voting)

Ana Ferreras

Commission Chairs

Steve Weiss (Commission A Chair) John Volakis (Commission B Chair)

Eric Mokole (Commission C Vice-Chair)

Charles Bayliss (Commission E Chair)

Michael Newkirk (Commission F Chair)

Sigrid Close (Commission G Chair)

Anatoly Streltsov (Commission H Chair)

David DeBoer (Commission J Chair)

Mahta Moghaddam (Commission K Chair)

Society Representatives

Robert Marshall (AMS representative)

Randy Haupt (IEEE AP-S representative)

David Kunkee (IEEE GRSS representative)

Steven Reising (IEEE MTT-S representative)

Members-at-Large

Reyhan Baktur

Danilo Erricolo

Al Gasiewski

Wayne Scales

Jamesina Simpson

U.S. Officers of URSI (non-voting)

Umran Inan (Vice President, URSI)

Ross Stone (Assistant Secretary General - Publications and GASS)

George Uslenghi (Assistant Secretary General – AT-RASC)

Government Liaisons (non-voting) Christopher Holloway Sadasiva M. Rao

Also in attendance:

Jennifer Bernhard (JMC USNC Representative) Thomas Hanley (Secretary, Commission F of URSI) Michael Jensen (President, IEEE AP-S) Yahya Rahmat-Samii (USNC Chair 2009-2011)

2) Approval of Minutes (David Jackson)

The minutes of the July 2015 USNC-URSI Business Meeting in Vancouver, BC, Canada were approved.

3) Approval of the Agenda (David Jackson)

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

4) Remarks by Mike Jensen, the President of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society (IEEE APS))

Mike Jensen recalled the long tradition of cooperation between USNC-URSI and IEEE APS, formerly called PGAP. Joint meetings between the two organizations date back to 1956, continuing in 1961. Since 1963/64 the two organizations have had joint summer meetings except for 2007. Mike Jensen expressed IEEE's interest to have continued productive collaboration with USNC-URSI.

5) Report by the Chair (David Jackson)

- Steve Reising was given a "big thank you" for his wonderful service as the Chair of USNC-URSI during 2012-2014 and for his continued service as Immediate Past Chair. A certificate will be officially presented to him at the plenary session at the NRSM, Boulder in 2016.
- David Jackson reviewed the parliamentary procedure.
- The USNC-URSI committee (the "Committee") was reminded 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. The Chair reviewed the USNC-URSI Leadership (Officers and National Academy Representatives), Commission Chairs, Vice Chairs, Society Representatives, Government Liaisons and Honorary Members. The international URSI officers from the U.S. are also voting members.
- David Jackson mentioned that Ross Stone has been appointed as the Publications Coordinator of USNC-URSI for 2015-2017, a newly created leadership position in USNC-URSI. He will oversee all issues pertaining to USNC-URSI publications. One present project is the archiving of all past USNC-URSI abstracts.

- The NRSM Conference coordinator Christina Patarino was thanked for all her work to make the NRSM successful.
- Important events at the 2016 NRSM were mentioned: Reception on January 6 at 6:30 p.m., Student Paper Competition and Plenary on January 7 from 8:20 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Student Travel Grant and SPC Lunch on January 7 from 12:00 noon-1:00 pm, and Hans Liebe Lecture on January 8 at 12:00 noon, Dinner with Mrs. Liebe on January 8 (by invitation) and Executive Council Meeting on January 9 from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Commission business meetings were scheduled on January 6 and 7 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Al Gasiewski gave a brief introduction, history, and the process of selecting Hans Liebe lectures, including the the 3rd Hans Liebe lecture at the NRSM Boulder 2016 by Paul Steffes from the Georgia Institute of Technology.
- The Chair gave a brief introduction to URSI, its ten Commissions, the USNC-URSI and its Web site at the National Academies, as well as the Board on International Scientific Organizations (BISO) at the National Academies.
- The Chair talked about the current USNC-URSI logo and the need for an alternative simpler logo. Ross Stone showed some potential logos and volunteered to set up a competition to seek an attractive logo from USNC-URSI members.
- The Chair talked about the nomination of new Commission members and reminded everyone about the nomination process through the "Membership" link on the USNC-URSI Web site. All Commissions should use this application process to ensure a uniform nomination process.
- The Chair mentioned that all Commissions should update their membership lists by adding new members elected at recent business meetings and by obtaining information for missing members. He requested all Commission Chairs to send their updated membership lists, including the newly elected members in the 2016 Commission business meetings, to him and Sembiam. Commission B has posted its membership list on its Web site. There was a discussion on whether all Commissions should do the same.
- The Chair stated that all Commissions should verify and update their information on the USNC-URSI Web site. All Commissions should have a Web site link on the USNC-URSI Web site, but not duplicate Web sites. Commissions C, D, E, and K are still missing their Web sites on the USNC-URSI Web site, although K is working on it. Commission J appears to have a duplicate Web site. The membership links for the Commissions G and H Web sites do not appear to work. Commissions A, B, and J are the only ones that have minutes from their business meetings posted on their Web sites.
- The Chair reminded everyone that Chelsea Bock is the Web master of the USNC-URSI Web site. Commission Chairs should contact her at 202-334-2302 and CBock@nas.edu to update their Web sites.
- The Chair stated that Section 4 of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between IEEE AP-S and USNC-URSI that has been in existence since 2009 has been modified to address the issue of the AP-S meeting going overseas. A big "thank you"

- to Ross Stone for doing this on short notice. Various minor corrections were also suggested for the MOU. These will be dealt with later.
- The Chair talked about a meeting of SCOSTEP, the Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics. SCOSTEP would like to have a representative from USNC-URSI to participate in future conference calls. Signid Close was appointed for this position.
- This is the first year that we have switched to using USB drives instead of CDs for distributing the proceedings at the NRSM. The Chair wants to know how the Commissions feel about the USB drives.
- Montreal is the venue for the 2020 joint summer meeting with the IEEE AP-S. This will be a North American Radio Science Meeting. There was a discussion on whether we wish to have a NRSM in Boulder in 2020. MSP: There will not be a Boulder meeting in 2020.
- The Chair stated that although the guidelines on the conference Web site indicate that the student travel grant awards are only for graduate students, this year, three undergraduates applied for travel grants. There was a discussion on whether the travel grants should be extended to undergraduates also. Motioned-Seconded-Passed (MSP): Include undergraduate students in the student travel grant program.
- Comments or suggestions are sought from all Commissions after discussion in their business meetings regarding the two choices that USNC authors have. Starting in 2016, for the Boulder NRSM and the summer RSM, authors may submit a one-page abstract or a two-page summary. The one-page abstract will not be submitted to IEEE Xplore, whereas the two-page summary has the option of being submitted to IEEE Xplore.
- There was a discussion on how best to update the membership lists of Commissions. Commission Chairs were asked to discuss in their business meetings whether to publish their membership lists on the Commission Web sites, just as Commission B has done.
- Commission Chairs were asked to discuss in their business meetings whether their Commission will participate in the 2017 IEEE AP-S/USNC-URSI joint summer meeting in San Diego.

6) Report by the Secretary (Sembiam Rengarajan)

- USNC-URSI Commission B will host the International URSI Commission B EM Theory Symposium in San Diego, CA during May 27-31, 2019. The IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society has agreed to be a financial co-sponsor (50%) along with USNC-URSI for this meeting. An MOU has been signed by IEEE AP-S and USNC-URSI. Hotel and PCO contracts are going through the IEEE approval process.
- Commission Chairs were asked to provide the complete postal address, in addition to affiliation, phone number, and email address, of all newly elected members from their business meetings.

7) Report by the Immediate Past Chair (Steve Reising)

• It is important to maintain the good relationship we have developed with IEEE AP-S. Since USNC-URSI papers are mostly works in progress, they complement and strengthen AP-S. George Uslenghi stated that we should not abandon the one-page abstract format in USNC-URSI.

8) Report by the Accounts Manager (Gary Brown)

- USNC-URSI's financial situation was updated.
- Our major expenses are student travel grants, GASS support, awards and prizes, while the revenue sources are the Boulder meetings and the joint summer meetings with IEEE AP-S, as well as an ARO grant of \$25K for three years.
- Presently, we have \$300,000 in our private account. We are in reasonably good shape financially.

9) Report by the Vice-President of International URSI (Umran Inan)

- International URSI is undergoing revitalization. In order to increase the visibility and participation by young people, each Commission now has Early Career Representatives (ECR). International URSI also has one annual conference each year.
- Each International URSI Commission Chair has a budget of 12,000 Euros. USNC-URSI Commission Chairs should get to know their international counterparts and contact them for financial support of good technical proposals.
- The 2017 GASS in Montreal had difficulty since no Canadian entity could accept financial responsibility for the conference. Frank Prato is working hard with NRC to get an organization that can accept financial responsibility. International URSI regularly requires 40 Euros per participant and 20% of the registration fee. This results in a high cost of registration. International URSI will discuss these issues with respect to GASS in Montreal at its March Board meeting.

10) Report by URSI Assistant Secretary General AT-RASC (George Uslenghi)

The first AT-RASC was held in Gran Canaria in May 2015 and had 465 papers. The conference broke even. Next time, in 2018, it is expected to have a larger participation. The Early Career Representatives were enthusiastic. George Uslenghi and Kazuya Kobayashi will chair the next AT-RASC in Seoul, Korea, while Ross Stone will be the IEEE AP-S Liaison.

11) Report by URSI Assistant Secretary General (Publications and GASS) (Ross Stone)

- Thanks to the efforts of Phil Wilkinson, Paul Cannon, and Ross Stone, *Radio Science* will go onto IEEE Xplore. Originally a USNC-URSI journal, *Radio Science* is presently published by the AGU.
- The *Radio Science Bulletin* (*RSB*) will have new columns: Historical Corner, Early Career Representative, Women in Radio Science, Cartoon, Solution Box, and Education Column. There is a need for an Associate Editor for the Book Reviews column. Commission Chairs are asked to recommend suitable candidates for this position.
- There is a possibility of the RSB going onto IEEE Xplore.
- The RSB is looking for papers targeted to a broader audience.

 USNC-URSI members should immediately contact the International URSI Commission Chairs if they want to organize sessions at GASS 2017 in Montreal, or for recommending topics for open sessions. A call for papers will be published in March 2016.

12) Report by USNC-URSI Membership Committee (Ross Stone)

- The USNC-URSI Membership Committee consists of Michael Newkirk, Sembiam Rengarajan, Ed Rothwell, Ross Stone, and John Volakis. Gary Brown, David Jackson, and Steve Reising also contributed to the discussions.
- A new class of membership, called Early Career Members (ECM), has been introduced. It has no need for citizenship or permanent residency. It is assumed that these members will transition into Associate or Full Members.
- Discussion Items: No citizenship or permanent residency requirements are imposed for Associate Members, but are required for Full Members. This is not a requirement of the National Academies, but it is the USNC's requirement. ECM's and Associate Members can join their own country's national committee if not a US citizen or permanent resident. They can still be an ECM or Associate Member of USNC.
- Associate Members are voting members of USNC. It is believed to be the current practice among Commissions. Is this what USNC wants?
- Membership guidelines will be discussed after getting input from Commission business meetings.

13) Report by USNC-URSI Publications Coordinator (Ross Stone)

■ USNC-URSI proceedings and digest books from National Radio Science Meetings and Joint Symposia dating back to the 1960s will be digitally archived. There are 80 books and about 26,000 pages in all. They will be scanned into PDFs with OCR, and will be made available as digital archive on the Web. The cost of scanning and OCR conversion is about \$0.08 per page. Some decisions have to be made on the file structure. The estimated cost is about \$3000 to \$3500.

14) Report on the USNC-URSI Constitution (Ross Stone)

- The Constitution was approved at the July 2015 USNC-URSI Business Meeting. The approved version was sent out to USNC-URSI. Minor changes were needed to correctly reference the National Academies. Two other changes stated below were suggested.
 - ➤ Clarification of quorum: A majority (more than 50%) of the full voting membership of the National Committee for a meeting held in person shall constitute a quorum. For a vote taken by e-mail or other electronic means, a majority (more than 50%) of the full voting membership of the National

- Committee must proactively participate in the voting process in order for a quorum to be established.
- ➤ The meetings of the National Committee shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.
- MSP (unanimous): The USNC-URSI approves the Constitution as modified.

15) Report from the National Academies (Ana Ferreras)

- The role of USNC-URSI within BISO was discussed.
- The BISO Web site can help with international visitors getting U.S. visas. This is done through the IVO (International Visitors Office).
- We need to reapply to ARO for funding and also expand funding sources.
- The USNC-URSI Web site is maintained by Chelsea Bock at the National Academies.
- During the 2016 NRSM, 125 travel fellowships (award letters) were processed. Eight students declined and eleven did not respond. 106 students received awards (93 received \$600 and 13 were given \$300).
- Women's reception will be held on Thursday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

16) Report from AAS representative (Joseph Lazio)

- The NRSM has a conflict with the American Astronomical Society (AAS) conference in Florida this year. It was recognized that while the NRSM and AAS usually have a conflict, USNC-URSI attracts astronomers interested in instruments.
- The Kavli Foundation sponsors conferences based on decadal surveys. The first one was held in Chicago.

17) Preliminary Report on the 2016 NRSM statistics (Jackson and Rengarajan)

- Total number of pre-registrants : 339
- Total abstracts and summaries submitted: 389 (342 abstracts and 47 summaries)
- Total abstracts and summaries accepted: 375
- Total number of sessions : 49
- Total number of Student Travel Grant Award applications: 122
- The number of registrants was of the same order as those registered in the recent past NRSMs.

18) Plenary Session and Special Sessions for the 2017 NRSM in Boulder (David Jackson)

- The Plenary Session topics suggested at the 2014 NRSM for Boulder 2016 were "RF Systems and Components for Radar" (CDF), "ALMA" (BJ), "Telemedicine" (BK), a theme from Commissions G and H (TBD), "Asteroids and Meteors" (GHJ), "Small Satellites" (BF), and "EM Interactions with the Nervous System" (EK). "Exoplanets" (JF) was suggested as a possible theme. This plenary session needs to be decided this week.
- Special sessions for the NRSM 2017 need to be decided by May 2016.
- Commission Chairs may start from the special sessions proposed for the 2016 NRSM that did not materialize.

• A final list of the special sessions from each Commission needs to be prepared, including names and emails for at least two organizers for each session.

19) Future IEEE AP-S/USNC-URSI meetings (Ross Stone)

- The next joint symposium will be in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The paper deadline is January 18, 2016. Having hotel reservations in the Las Vista wing of the El Conquistador are suggested.
- The dates, venue and chairs of the future joint symposia are i) July 9-15, 2017, San Diego, California, Daniel Sievenpiper, ii) July 14-21, 2018, Boston, MA, Steve Best, and iii) July 7-12, 2019, Atlanta, GA, John Papapolymerou.
- In 2020 the joint symposium will be held at Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal during July 4-10. It will be a North American Radio Science Meeting.
- URSI meetings, including GASS (2017, 2020), AT-RASC (2015, 2018, 2021) and AP-RASC (2016, 2019, and 2022), were discussed.
- The URSI Board and Coordinating Committee meetings will be held at those meetings.
- It is hoped that some Commissions who have their own triennial meetings will merge them into one or both of these two meetings (AP-RASC and AT-RASC).
- The next AP-RASC will be held in Seoul, Korea during Aug. 21-25, 2016 with all 10 URSI Commissions participating in invited and open submissions. It will have a Student Paper Competition. Young Scientist Awards will be presented.
- The next URSI GASS will be held on Aug. 19-26, 2017 in the Palais des Congres, Montreal, Canada. There are some issues with the Local Organizing Committee, but those will be worked out by March 2016.
- Starting January 2016, IEEE has implemented a policy requiring that a fee of \$1000 per conference and \$15 per paper be paid for technically co-sponsored conferences that publish articles on IEEE Xplore.
- In 2013, AP-S set a policy to pay these IEEE Xplore fees.
- An analysis of the actual revenue distributed to AP-S from technically co-sponsored conferences for 2014 showed that AP-S receives on average at least six times the cost of the fees in revenue from the conference proceedings on Xplore.
- At its November 2015 AdCom meeting, AP-S reaffirmed its policy to pay the IEEE Xplore fees for technically co-sponsored conferences.
- We will revisit the issue of fees for conference papers on IEEE Xplore if AP-S changes its policy on paying for the fees.
- At the November 2015 AdCom meeting, AP-S passed a motion related to holding its annual Symposium outside of North America, and participation by USNC-URSI.
- The Joint Meetings Committee (JMC) will evaluate proposals from Regions 1-7 while AP-S Meetings Committee will be in charge of proposals from Regions 8-10. In the case of competing proposals, the AP-S Meetings Committee recommendation to AdCom will prevail.
- If a venue in Regions 8-10 is approved, USNC-URSI will be invited to join AP-S. If USNC-URSI accepts, then the JMC organizes the symposium, under the existing MOU. If USNC-URSI declines, then the MOU will be suspended for one year and the AP-S Meetings committee will organize the symposium.

- It is expected that symposia held in Regions 8-10 will not be more frequent than every third year.
- There is a potential issue if the venue chosen is in a country with an active local URSI national committee.
- On December 28, AP-S President Roberto Graglia terminated the MOU with USNC-URSI that had been in effect since 2009. It was stated that paragraph 4, relating to the selection of venue and organization of meetings by the Joint Meetings Committee, needed to be revised to reflect a motion passed by AP-S. Only a revision of paragraph 4 was needed.
- On December 29, David Jackson sent a revised version of paragraph 4 to Roberto, requesting that the MOU be amended (per paragraph 1) instead of canceled. It contained the same wording as the AP-S motion. It was felt that it is *much* simpler to get NAS approval for an amendment than for whole new MOU.
- On December 30, Roberto rescinded the termination in favor of amending the MOU with the revised paragraph 4.
- The revised paragraph 4 contains the exact wording of the motion passed by the AP-S AdCom (for the case where the proposal is from outside IEEE Regions 1-7, and the meeting is chosen to be outside Regions 1-7).
- This motion was included in the discussion items material circulated to USNC-URSI prior to this meeting.
- MSP: (unanimously) Approve amended MOU between USNC-URSI and AP-S with revised paragraph 4.
- The following future changes in the AP-S/USNC-URSI MOU were proposed.
 - Change "USNC/URSI" to "USNC-URSI" everywhere. Similarly for "CNC/URSI" and "USNC/CNC/URSI".
 - Change "National Radio Science Meeting" to "Radio Science Meeting". (The NRSM is the one that meets in Boulder.)
 - Change "of" to "for" in "US National Committee of the International Union of Radio Science" (even though "of" sounds better, David thinks it should officially be "for").
 - The amended version of the paragraph 4 of the MOU between USNC-URSI and AP-S that was approved is attached to the minutes.
- MSP: (unanimous) USNC-URSI will participate with AP-S in joint meetings held in Regions 8 through 10 on the same basis as in Regions 1 through 7.
- MSP: (unanimous) USNC-URSI wishes to participate in the 2021 Joint Symposium in Singapore.
- Currently the Chair of the AP-S Meetings Committee is automatically the Chair of the JMC. There was a discussion whether USNC-URSI should seek to have the Chair of the JMC be selected jointly by AP-S and USNC-URSI. It was felt that AP-S may not agree.

20) Action Items for Commission Business Meetings (Jackson and Rengarajan)

- Do you prefer USB drives vs. CDs for the NRSM? It was also suggested that the contents of the USB drives (including all of the papers) be placed on a server with an open access. How do you feel about it?
- In the USNC-URSI Business Meeting it was decided that the student travel grants will be given to undergraduate students as well as graduate students, if they are the first and presenting author of a paper from a US university. How do you feel about this?
- Are you happy with the present IEEE Xplore arrangement (one page abstracts are not submitted to Xplore and two-page summaries have the option of being submitted to Xplore)?
- Do you have any suggestions on updating the Commission membership lists? Also, is it okay to put the names and affiliations of Members on the Commission Web site, just as Commission B has done?
- Will your Commission participate in the 2017 AP-S/USNC-URSI meeting in San Diego? (Commissions are encouraged to participate in this joint summer meeting.)
- Do you have any suggestion for a Plenary Session theme for the 2017 NRSM? If so, which two Commissions would jointly organize it? (This needs to be decided at the Executive Council Meeting this Saturday.)
- Ross Stone is looking for an Associate Editor in charge of the "Book Review" column for the *Radio Science Bulletin*. Do you have any suggestions?
- For Full Membership in any USNC-URSI Commission, there presently is a requirement of US Citizenship or permanent residency. During the USNC-URSI Business Meeting, there was discussion of the possibility of removing that requirement. What is your commission's opinion? (Note that there is no such requirement for Associate Members).
- Should Associate Members of the Commissions be considered as voting members of the Commissions? (Presently they are not.)
- USNC-URSI is in the process of establishing a new membership category called Early Career Member. This category is designed to allow students (and other qualified early-career applicants) to join and become (non-voting) Members of Commissions. Any comments on this?

21) Old Business (David Jackson)

None

22) New Business (David Jackson)

None

23) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

The amended version of paragraph 4 of the MOU between USNC-URSI and AP-S that was approved by USNC-URSI

4. Conference Organization, Management, and Oversight: Policies for the organization, management, and oversight of the Conference shall be set in agreement with the policies of theIEEE, AP-S, NAS, and USNC-URSI. Overall responsibility for such policies shall rest with the AP-S AdCom and USNC-URSI. AP-S and USNC-URSI shall appoint representatives to a Joint Meetings Committee. The Joint Meetings Committee shall evaluate proposals for venues for the Conference located in IEEE Regions 1-7. The AP-S Meetings Committee shall evaluate proposals for venues located in IEEE Regions 8-10. If competing proposals for IEEE Regions 1-7 and Regions 8-10 are submitted for the same year, the selection and recommendation to the AdCom by the AP-S Meetings Committee shall prevail. Should a proposed venue in Regions 8-10 be approved by the AdCom, then USNC-URSI will be invited to join in holding the Conference under this MOU. If USNC-URSI accepts the invitation, then the Joint Meetings Committee shall have responsibility for the organization of the Conference per the rest of this section. If USNC-URSI declines the invitation to join in holding the Conference, paragraph 3 (Suspension of MOU) will be invoked for that Conference and the Conference will be the responsibility of the AP-S Meetings Committee. It is expected that the Conference will be held in IEEE Regions 8-10 not more frequently than once every third year.

When proposals are received for the Conference from IEEE Regions 1-7, the Joint Meetings Committee shall carry out reviewing the proposals, recommending venues and associated Organizing Committees to the AP-S AdCom and USNC-URSI, and implementing the details of policies related to the organization and operation of the Conference.

If the Conference is held under the Joint Meetings Committee per this section, The Organizing Committee for each Conference shall be jointly approved by AP-S and USNC-URSI, and shall be responsible for the planning and operations of the Conference. The Organizing Committee shall be composed of representatives from AP-S and USNC-URSI. The Organizing Committee shall be responsible for appointing other committee chairs, defining the technical program, identifying short courses, coordinating exhibits, selecting hotels, and all other aspects of the Conference not otherwise specifically delegated by AP-S and USNC-URSI. In order to satisfy IEEE requirements, it is explicitly stated that the Conference shall be planned and conducted according to IEEE Policies Section 10, "Meetings, Conferences, Symposia, and Expositions," and such additional nonconflicting policies as established by AP-S and USNC-URSI, attached hereto as Appendix B, and such additional non-conflicting policies as established by mutual agreement of AP-S and USNC-URSI.