

1) Call to Order and Introductions (Sembiam Rengarajan)

Sembiam Rengarajan, the Chair of USNC-URSI, called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm EDT. The following members of USNC were present at the USNC-URSI Business Meeting.

USNC Officers

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

National Academies Staff (non-voting)

Kathie Bailey
Ana Ferreras

Commission Chairs and Vice-Chairs

Jeanne Quimby (Commission A Chair)
Jamesina Simpson (Commission B Chair)
Eric L. Mokole (Commission C Chair)
Negar Ehsan (Commission D Chair)
Kamal Sarabandi (Commission F Chair)
Attila Komjathy (Commission G Chair)
Thomas Gaussiran (Commission G Vice-Chair)
Robert Moore (Commission H Chair)
Jeff Mangum (Commission J Chair)
Alyson Ford (Commission J Vice-Chair)
Majid Manteghi (Commission K Chair)

Society Representatives

Kshitija Deshpande (AGU representative)
V. Chandrasekhar (IEEE GRS, also Chair, URSI Commission F)

Members-at-Large

Reyhan Baktur
Al Gasiewski
Susan Hagness (also IEEE-APS/USNC-URSI JMC member)
Mahta Moghaddam (also IEEE AP-S President)
Wayne Scales

U.S. Officers of URSI

Ross Stone (Assistant Secretary General - Publications)
George Uslenghi (URSI Vice-President)
John Volakis (Vice-Chair, Commission B)

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Government Liaisons (non-voting)

Not present

Also in attendance:

David Michelson (CNC-URSI Chair)

Yahya Rahmat-Samii (USNC-URSI Chair 2009-2011 and IEEE-APS/USNC-URSI JMC member)

Erdem Topsakal (Coordinator for Student Travel Program and Student Paper Competition)

2) Approval of the Agenda (Rengarajan)

The agenda for the meeting was approved unanimously (M: Stone; S: Gasiewski).

3) Approval of Minutes (Rengarajan)

The minutes of the January 2019 USNC-URSI Business Meeting in Boulder, CO were approved unanimously (M: Stone; S: Gasiewski).

4) Report by the Chair (Rengarajan)

- The Chair recognized two special guests in attendance: Mahta Moghaddam, IEEE AP-S President, and David Michelson, CNC-URSI Chair.
- The Chair reviewed the URSI and USNC-URSI organizations. 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, 8 U.S. officers of International URSI, 6 Society Representatives, and one National Academies Representative (Jack Welch). The Chair reviewed the USNC-URSI Leadership (Officers and National Academy Representatives), Commission Chairs, Vice Chairs, Society Representatives, Government Liaisons, Honorary Members, USNC-URSI members holding URSI positions, and USNC-URSI representatives in the Joint Meetings Committee.
- The Chair explained that due to the postponement of the URSI General Assembly and Scientific Symposium (GASS), because of the current COVID-19 pandemic, all URSI Officers terms have been extended until 2021 when the next GASS will be held. Per the USNC-URSI Constitution, all current USNC-URSI Committee Members and Commission Officers are therefore eligible to have their term extended by one year, to 31 December 2021. All were thanked for agreeing to serve an additional year.
- Ross Stone serves as the Publications Coordinator in charge of the USNC-URSI Archive. Ross will oversee all issues pertaining to USNC-URSI publications and also interact with the IEEE AP-S on publication issues.
- Erdem Topsakal, Student Coordinator, is in charge of the Ernest K. Smith Student Paper Competition and the Student Travel Grant awards.
- Reyhan Baktur is Chair of the USNC-URSI Women in Radio Science (WIRS) Chapter.
- Important events at the 2020 NARSM were reviewed:

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1. 7th Hans Liebe Lecture on July 6 at 12:00 pm;
 2. CNC-USNC-URSI Student Paper Competition on July 7 at 3:00 pm;
 3. Awards Ceremony on July 8 at 5:00 pm;
 4. WIRS Panel Discussion on July 9 at 12:00 pm; and,
 5. Executive Council Meeting on July 11 at 12:00 pm.
 6. Commission Business Meetings were scheduled on July 6 and 7 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm and 6:00 to 7:00 pm.
- The Chair reminded the Committee about the nomination process for new members. All Commissions should use the application process through the “Membership” link on the USNC-URSI website.
 - The Chair recognized three USNC-URSI members that won URSI Awards, to be presented at the 2021 GASS:
 1. Prof. Raj Mitra (Karl Rawer Gold Medal)
 2. Prof. John Volakis (Booker Gold Medal)
 3. Dr. Xiaolan Xu (Santimay Basu Prize)

The Chair also recognized the recipient of the USNC-URSI Booker Fellowship Award: Dr. Salvatore Campione, of Sandia National Laboratories, “For innovative contributions to the electromagnetic modeling of complex systems and structures from microwave to optical frequencies”.

All were congratulated by the Committee.

- The Chair reviewed the status of the Commission websites, as this was an item of discussion at the past few meetings. Some Commissions still do not have their websites in the USNC-URSI website. Some of the Commissions do not have their complete membership information. Some of them do not have minutes of their recent meetings or current information for officers. Chelsea Bock, the USNC-URSI webmaster, will help Commissions to update their websites. It is suggested that all Commissions have their members’ names and affiliations in their websites. Commission Chairs were given an action to update their pages on the USNC-URSI website as soon as possible.
- The Chair explained to the Committee that the upcoming URSI GASS will still be held in Rome, Italy, but now in 2021. The planned 2020 GASS Student Paper Competition will still be held virtually in the August-September timeframe. Travel support to the 2021 GASS will still be available for regular members and early career scientists, but the request process will be redone in the spring of 2021. All Commission Chairs and past Chairs were again encouraged to be nominated for URSI Commission Vice-Chair positions, as the nominations will be reopened. There will also be calls for Early Career Representatives for each Commission.
- The Chair announced that nominations are sought for the USNC-URSI Secretary/Chair-Elect for the 2022-2023 term. Nominees should submit a 2-page CV and position statement to the Chair by December 15, 2020. Nominees will be given an

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opportunity to address the Committee at the January 2021 USNC-URSI Business Meeting, where a vote will be conducted. The term will start January 1, 2022.

Discussion Items:

- The dates for the 2021 NRSM are January 6-9 (Wednesday-Saturday), with Saturday used for sessions only if the number of papers requires. The Business meeting will be held on Tuesday evening, January 5, and the Executive Council Meeting on Saturday morning, January 9 (if overflow sessions are not needed).
- Since COVID-19 may still limit travel and large gatherings in January, USNC-URSI is planning for a virtual 2020 NRSM. Three options are being considered:
 1. Online-only, synchronous: all events are broadcast live (including 10 parallel sessions)
 2. Online-only, asynchronous sessions with pre-recorded talks and live discussions during scheduled session times.
 - Live Plenary, Liebe and Historical talks;
 - Live Student Paper Competition presentations.
 3. Online (with either Options 1 or 2 above) and partial in-person presence.

The decision between Options 1 and 2 will be made by September 1. If sufficient interest is expressed in Option 3, a decision will be made to include that sometime after September 1. Commission Chairs were asked to do a survey in their business meetings to gauge interest in these options.

- The Chair showed the results of the 2019 NRSM Survey. It was noted that almost half of the respondents were students, attendees were generally satisfied with the scientific content, and 67% attended sessions from two or more Commissions.
- The issue on how to deal with inactive members was again discussed. The concept of creating an “Inactive” list within each Commission’s membership list was discussed. Commission Chairs were asked to discuss this at their Business Meetings.
- The Chair noted that USNC-URSI presently has only one award, the Booker Fellowship. In January 2019, it was decided to form an awards committee to make recommendations for creating more USNC-URSI awards. Volunteers were requested; Jamesina Simpson, Ross Stone, and Jeanne Quimby agreed to serve on this committee.

5) Report by the Secretary (Newkirk)

- The NRSM abstract/summary submission and review process is changing due to the past service provider (Bo Yu) informing USNC-URSI that he can no longer support this activity. After considering the available options, USNC-URSI has entered into an agreement with Conference Management Services (CMS) to provide this service. CMS already supports the AP-S/URSI summer meetings, which should make the transition easy.
- A new USNC-URSI owned website has been created to archive the programs and abstracts from past NRSM and joint AP-S/URSI meetings. These were formerly hosted on the NASEM website, but when NASEM moved to a new website system this could

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no longer be supported. The new site is <https://www.usnc-ursi-archive.org/> and now includes:

- Programs and abstracts dating back to 1968;
- A list of Past Chairs of USNC-URSI dating back to 1965;
- A list of Liebe Lecturers and their abstracts that began in 2014; and
- All Minutes from USNC-URSI Business and Executive Council meetings dating back to 2008.

The site will continue to be used to download the media for each NRSM prior to the start of the meeting.

- The consolidated membership database is still not complete, lacking only the inputs of Commissions C and E. Commission Chairs were asked to update their individual membership lists and send to Mike Newkirk after they elect new members during the coming week. Mike will contact Chelsea Bock to revisit the idea of using the new website managed by NASEM to provide a Listserv capability to send mass emails to members using this consolidated membership list, as well as allow members to update their own contact information.

6) Report by the Immediate Past Chair (Jackson)

- David Jackson announced that USNC-URSI will now offer a reduced registration fee for post-doctoral (post-docs) and early career individuals, based on feedback from the January 2019 attendee survey and the 2019 Executive Council meeting. The rate will be slightly higher than the student rate but significantly lower than the regular member rate. There was some discussion on the definition of “early career” and it was agreed that it would be the USNC-URSI definition of “Early Career Member” to encourage these new graduates to join a USNC-URSI Commission.
- At the 2019 Business and Executive Council Meetings, an exploratory committee was formed to investigate having tutorials, short courses, and workshops. This committee is led by Jeff Mangum, supported by Mark Golkowski and Jonathan Chisum. A popular suggestion from the 2019 attendee survey was a tutorial on proposal writing. Ana Ferreras will assist. Other members were encouraged to contact Jeff if they would like to help develop this idea for the January 2021 NRSM.

7) Report by the Accounts Manager (Brown)

- There are three accounts of interest: one is funded by NSF and supports BISO operations; an Endowment account that supports the Booker Fellowship and Basu Prize; and the Private Account that supports USNC-URSI operations. USNC-URSI major expenses continue to be student travel grants, awards and prizes. The revenue sources are the Boulder meetings and the joint summer meetings with IEEE AP-S. As of May 2020, the private account balance is approximately \$319K.
- Commission Chairs were reminded that each gets \$3K to spend on their Commission during their term, which can be used for travel or any other purpose to benefit the

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Commission. Any requests must first be cleared through Gary Brown, who will then inform NASEM that an expense is approved.

- As of November 2018, the Private account balance was about \$306K. Since then, about \$130K is income from the 2018 Boulder meeting and two summer joint meetings (Puerto Rico and Boston) with AP-S. Typical income from NRSM and AP-S meetings is about \$30K and \$60K, respectively. Our normal annual expenses are \$100K (including the student travel support). There was a considerable 2019 expense (~\$57K) shared with AP-S for a hotel attrition charge associated with the 2019 EMTS meeting in San Diego that suffered from travel visa restrictions. Despite that, the account is in very good shape given the lower than normal travel expenses in this period, a partial reimbursement from AP-S for the 2019 EMTS expense (~\$14K), and excellent Boston AP-S meeting proceeds. The result leaves us with a slightly higher balance of \$319K compared to November 2018. It is noted that with the change of the current AP-S meeting to virtual, the only associated expense will be the CNC-USNC-URSI Student Paper Contest, and there will be no travel expenses for the 2020 GASS.

8) Report by URSI Vice-President (Uslenghi)

- The URSI Board has rescheduled its flagship meetings in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. These include:
 - 2021 GASS: August 28 – September 4, Rome, Italy
 - The local organizing committee leadership has been updated
 - There will be options for those 2020 GASS submissions
 - 2022 AT-RASC: May 30 / June 4, Gran Canaria, Spain
 - 2022 AP-RASC: August 20-25, Sydney, Australia
 - 2023 GASS: August 19-26, Sapporo, Japan

Note that two meetings will be held in 2022, separated by several months, and the 2023 GASS remains as originally scheduled. This means that the next triennium will actually be just two years in duration.

- Software difficulties have delayed Volume 1 (2019) of the new URSI publication *Radio Science Letters* (RSL). Volume 2 (2020) currently has 7 submissions, other submissions encouraged. The RSL web address will be sent to Ana and Chelsea Bock for posting on the NASEM site.
- The US chapter of the URSI Centenary Book is being coauthored by George Uslenghi and Ross Stone. A draft is nearing completion and planned to be finished by August.
- George Uslenghi explained how the Women in Radio Science (WIRS) initiative began with a lecture by Anthea Coster at the 2018 AT-RASC and subsequent reprise as a Historical Lecture at the 2019 NRSM. URSI subsequently endorsed the formation of WIRS Chapters and in 2019 the USNC-URSI formed the first WIRS Chapter of any National Committee. There will be an IEEE AP-S WIE and USNC-URSI WIRS Joint Virtual Reception at this week's IEEE-APS/URSI Symposium. Incentives for the formation of WIRS Chapters in each URSI Member Country was proposed to the URSI Board, which will be considered at an upcoming meeting.

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9) Report by URSI Assistant Secretary General (Publications) (Stone)

- The *Radio Science Bulletin* (RSB) has been running a bit late, mostly because of delayed receipt of papers for special issues. URSI is actively seeking submissions for this open-access publication on IEEE Xplore that has no article processing charges. The new online RSL, as previously described by George Uslenghi, has been launched.
- The URSI Centenary Book has contributions from 22 Member Countries and at least 8 of the 10 Commissions. It is being edited by Paul Cannon, Phil Wilkinson, and Ross Stone. George Uslenghi is writing the US Chapter, with some help from Ross, and it currently consists of 20+ pages, including major US contributions to radio science over past 100 years, plus contributions by US Commissions.
- The 2020 URSI GASS was to have been in Rome, Italy, and is now delayed until 2021 as previously mentioned. Authors of accepted papers may:
 1. Withdraw the paper,
 2. Resubmit to GASS 2021 (with updates if desired), or
 3. Publish in the Proceedings of GASS 2020 by submitting a Powerpoint file with optional voice. This would be available to registrants prior to the virtual GASS 2020 and eligible for submission to IEEE Xplore.

In addition, an augmented version of a paper may be published in RSL for reduced page charges of \$100/page. Submission deadline is August 29, 2020.

The Virtual GASS 2020 will include some live events including the USNC-URSI sponsored Student Paper Competition (SPC)

- Ross updated the Committee about the URSI Individual Membership, and urged Commissions to encourage members to join. URSI has introduced three membership levels: Corresponding, Senior and Fellow. The requirements for Corresponding and Senior members are similar to USNC-URSI Associate and Full members, respectively. USNC-URSI Commission members will be automatically endorsed by USNC-URSI. Individual memberships are free and allow reduced registration at URSI meetings, notification in the RSB issues and reduced page charges for the RSL.

10) Report by USNC-URSI Publications Coordinator (Stone)

- Ross provided some additional details regarding the server that hosts the new USNC-URSI Archive. This site is owned by USNC-URSI and was managed by Bo Yu as part of this abstract submission service. With his departure, the site was converted to a managed server, which greatly simplifies the management of the site.

11) Report by the JMC USNC-URSI Coordinator (Stone)

- Statistics for the 2019 joint symposium in Atlanta were presented. There were 1245 AP-S papers and 345 URSI papers submitted. The accepted papers by AP-S and URSI were 1179 and 337 respectively, for a total of 1516. The USNC-URSI's share of the surplus is about 22%, which should be about \$46K, once the final accounting has been completed.

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- Roberto Graglia is the JMC Chair, with AP-S members Chi Hou Chan, Lorena Garcia, Christian Pichot, Leung Tsang, George Uslenghi and Parveen Wahid (AP-S Meetings Coordinator). The USNC-URSI members are Gary Brown, Susan Hagness, Yahya Rahmat-Samii and Ross Stone (USNC-URSI Meetings Coordinator).
- USNC-URSI now has a new agreement in place with AP-S to determine the distribution of any surplus from a co-sponsored meeting. For joint summer meetings in 2021-2025, USNC-URSI will receive \$66K. For 2026 and beyond, the amount will be adjusted by the average of ratio of papers for the prior 5 year, plus inflation. This new arrangement will allow AP-S to reduce its registration rates without affecting USNC-URSI proceeds. In addition, AP-S recently passed a motion protecting its partners in those conferences it financially cosponsors against losses due to the impact of such unforeseen events as the COVID-19 pandemic. This would protect USNC-URSI against any loss from the Montreal joint meeting, for example.
- AP-S has decided that no more often than every three years, the joint summer symposium will be held outside North America, the first one being in Singapore in 2021. USNC-URSI has previously committed to continuing to join with AP-S outside of North America. AP-S also wishes to hold a topical meeting inside North America in years when the summer joint symposium is held outside North America. After considering various options, AP-S decided upon the International Conference on Electromagnetics and Advanced Applications & Antennas and Propagation in Wireless Communications (ICEAA/APWC), which will be held August 9-13, 2021, in Hawaii, subject to GASS 2021 dates. This is the only AP-S meeting to be held in North America in 2021. The USNC-URSI Executive Committee endorsed joining this meeting, and is seeking feedback from the Commissions on whether they will participate.
- To facilitate the ability of USNC-URSI to join such future meetings, an amendment to the existing AP-S/USNC-URSI MoU was required. A five-sentence paragraph was added to the MoU as an amendment, extending the existing MoU to cover additional joint meetings when jointly agreed to. The same MoU terms apply, with surplus determined by ratio of papers, which is the current formula, rather than new formula for 2021 and later for summer symposia.
- The dates, venue, and chairs of the future joint symposia are:
 - July 10-16, 2021, Singapore; Zhi Ning Chen General Chair.
 - July 10-15, 2022, Denver, Colorado; Branislav Notaros, General Chair.
 - July 2023: Jamesina Simson, General Chair
 - Originally this was to be held in Salt Lake City, but has now been moved to Portland.
 - A motion for USNC-URSI to participate was passed unanimously (M: Stone, S: Brown).
 - July 14-19, 2024, Florence, Italy; Agostino Monorchio, General Chair, Giuliano Manara, Co-Chair
 - Fortezza da Basso is the venue.

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- A motion for USNC-URSI to participate was passed unanimously (M: Stone, S: Volakis).
- 2025: Detroit proposed by Premjeet Chahal (MSU) and Amir Mortazawi (U Mich)
 - There was heavy opposition on basis of perceived safety issues.
 - The organizers are looking at other venues: San Francisco likely.
- June 19-25 or July 3-9, 2027, Kyoto, Japan; Jiro Hirokawa, General Chair
 - A motion for USNC-URSI to participate was passed unanimously (M: Stone, S: Brown).
- The Joint Meetings Committee is actively seeking proposals for 2026 and after 2027. Contact Ross or Roberto Graglia for information on how to propose.
- Future USNC-URSI and URSI meetings include:
 - NRSM 2021, January 6-9, Boulder, Colorado
 - ICEAA/APWC/USNC-URSI 2021, August 9-13, Hawaii
 - URSI GASS 2021 August 28 - September 4, Rome
 - AT-RASC 2022, May 30-June 4, Gran Canaria, Spain
 - AP-RASC 2022, August 20-25, Sydney, Australia
 - EMTS 2023, Late May, Moscow, Russia
 - URSI GASS 2023, August 19-26, Sapporo, Japan

12) Remarks from IEEE AP-S President (Moghadam)

- Mahta Moghadam discussed a number of collaborative efforts with USNC-URSI, including the upcoming Virtual 2020 AP-S/URSI NARSM. She also reported from the Presidents' Forum: two societies reported unprecedented attendance at their online conferences, all reporting surpluses, so IEEE believes online conferences are here to stay. Large and successful conferences can be held online with great quality presentations. She encourages us to be open-minded and consider adding online aspects to our in-person conferences.

13) Report from the National Academies (Ferrerias)

- Ana reviewed NASEM efforts to address COVID-19. The National Academy of Medicine has been advising the White House on COVID-19. As a result of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, NASEM is also initiating efforts to increase diversity of membership both internally and externally, and launch a series of talks from distinguished speakers on diversity.
- The International Science Council (ISC) has released a report in February 2020, called *Gender Gap in Science: A Global Approach to the Gender Gap in Mathematical, Computing, and Natural Sciences: How to Measure It, How to Reduce It?* This was a three-year, multi-union project funded by the ISC and concluded in 2019.

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- Links to the final report: <https://zenodo.org/record/3697223#.XpoloZl7mHs>; <https://gender-gap-in-science.org/>
- Link to an eight-page booklet summarizing the recommendations that is available in four languages: <https://gender-gap-in-science.org/promotional-materials/>
- Ana reviewed the mission of the Board on International Scientific Organizations (BISO) and discussed its strategic plan:
 - NETWORKS: Provide vibrant leadership for and participation in the world's scientific organizations, creating and enhancing opportunities for U.S. scientists to contribute to international networks
 - SCIENCE: Advance and promote STEM+ research, education, and policy
 - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: Grow a globally-engaged and diverse U.S. STEM+ workforce
 - INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY: Bring U.S. scientists to the world and bring global science to the U.S. by promoting the U.S. as a destination for high-impact international scientific meetings
- NASEM is now funded from a consolidated NSF funding proposal to support the 17 UNSCs that it oversees. The 2019-2024 budget is \$5.4M, significantly less than the original budget request. As a result, these funds cover only core functions such as paying dues to the international organizations for each USNC; support annual meetings for each USNC (such as the NRSM); and funding travel for a delegation of members to the general assemblies. This now requires an annual report to NSF to measure Union impact and value added; the first is due August 1, 2020.
- Ana described the new Variability and **Predictability of the Solar-Terrestrial Coupling** (PRESTO) program that is organized by the Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP). Several ISC bodies participate in SCOSTEP, which organizes long-term scientific programs in solar terrestrial physics. PRESTO's goals are to address the predictability of space weather and its impact on the sun-earth system. SCOSTEP is currently accepting applications for international scientific campaigns that are related to one or more PRESTO Pillars (see separate file for details).
- A new USNC for CODATA is being formed. USNC-CODATA was within BISO before, but is now returning after being within the Board on Research Data and Information.
- NASEM now has a new Unified Web that makes information more accessible across the entire organization. Please contact Chelsea Bock to make updates to USNC-URSI Commission pages, as well as to post any relevant items on the NASEM site.
- The International Visitors Office (IVO) provides an institution-wide service in monitoring the international visa situation. The IVO assists international scientists/engineers and students by bringing their pending visa cases to the attention of the Department of State. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this assistance should they need help with international visitors, as they have been very successful in helping visitors. Details are accessible through a link on the USNC-URSI home page.

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- Pam Gamble left BISO in 2019 and has been replaced by James Manning. Chelsea Bock was promoted to Associate Program Officer, but will still be USNC-URSI's POC for website matters.
- Kathie Bailey also discussed the challenges with travel visas for international visitors, and what BISO is doing to prepare for when recent rules are relaxed.

14) Report from Student Coordinator (Topsakal)

- Erdem mentioned that there were only seven student paper competition (SPC) submissions and of those, only five qualified. Normally there are many more submissions, but a combination of late announcement of this SPC, corresponding short timeline to submit, and uncertainty of whether the NARSM would be held likely contributed to the low number. The top five were ranked by the Commission Chairs to select the top three finalists. The three finalists are Navid Barani (Commission K), Ruyu Ma (B) and Shashwat Sharma (B). The finalists will compete in a live Zoom meeting arranged by NASEM on Tuesday, July 7, at 3:00 EDT, with judges from all ten Commissions in both USNC-URSI and CNC-URSI. Erdem thanked all the Commission Chairs for their work in ranking the papers.
- Erdem asked the Committee to consider waiving the registration fee for students at the upcoming NRSM, if the meeting is held completely online. This would still cost less than if USNC-URSI provided travel grants to the students to attend in Boulder.

15) Proposal to Host Future NRSMs in Miami, FL (Volakis)

- John Volakis presented a proposal to host future meetings at the Florida International University (FIU) central campus in Miami, FL. Mike Newkirk and Ross Stone were to have made a site visit prior to this meeting, but that had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Committee members raised concerns about distance between hotels and conference location, as well as the higher cost of hotels relative to Boulder, which may especially impact students. A more detailed cost difference comparison for the attendees between FIU and Boulder was requested before making a final decision. Commission Chairs were asked to get feedback from their members on interest in attending the NRSM at FIU during their business meetings the following week.

16) Comments by CNC Chair (Michelson)

- Dave Michelson announced that the Canadian National Committee (CNC) is now incorporated as a non-profit and is rising in profile within the Canadian government.
- Dave discussed his efforts to improve communications between URSI and the member National Committees such as CNC-URSI and USNC-URSI, which he feels are not satisfactory. He will be following up with Sembiam and Mike in the near future.
- Dave is also working to improve relations between URSI and ITU. He has discussed this with some URSI and USNC-URSI Commission Chairs. He will be sharing more information on this in the near future, which will lead to a formal resolution at the next GASS.
- Dave also mentioned that CNC-URSI is interested in hosting the 2026 AP-S/URSI meeting in Ottawa, which could be a NARSM. He will bring this proposal to the JMC in the near future. George Uslenghi pointed out that Canada had previously been interested in the EMTS meeting that year, having only narrowly lost to Moscow for the

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2023 meeting. 2026 would be the next opportunity to host EMTS. Dave will talk to his colleagues about this.

17) Report by National Academies Representative, Members-at-Large, Society Representatives, Government Liaisons

- No comments were given.

18) Preliminary Report on the 2020 AP-S/NARSM statistics (Rengarajan)

- A preliminary report on the upcoming meeting statistics was provided, which did not include any updates due to withdrawals:
 - Total number of abstracts and summaries submitted/accepted: 1349/1168.
 - Number of URSI abstracts and summaries submitted/accepted: 449/346.
 - Number of APS/URSI sessions: 146/54.
 - Number of Special Sessions: 20.
 - Number of registrations: 2081.

19) Plenary and Special Sessions for the 2021 NRSM in Boulder (Rengarajan)

- Sembiam Rengarajan had identified three potential speakers for the 2021 NRSM Plenary:
 - Kip Thorne, Caltech, *Gravitational Waves*.
 - Nader Engheta, University of Pennsylvania, *Unconventional Electromagnetics*.
 - Linda Katehi, Texas A&M, *Embodied Intelligence in Electronics: A New Era in High Frequency Circuit Design*.

An invitation has been sent to Kip Thorne (2017 Nobel Prize winner), who is still deciding whether to accept. Sembiam will invite the others depending on Kip's response.

- There was a significantly lower number of special session topics provided by Commissions to date. Commission Chairs were asked to discuss with their members and provide additional topics by July 17, so they can all be included on the NRSM website and paper submission site.

20) Action Items for Commission Business Meetings (Newkirk)

- Mike will email the Commission Business Report Form that includes several announcements for their members, as well as these actions:
 1. USNC-URSI leadership has agreed to join with IEEE AP-S for the 2021 ICEAA-APWC conference in September 2021, in Honolulu, HI. Please ask your Commissions whether they would like to participate in this meeting, which is two months after the AP-S/URSI meeting in Singapore and a few weeks after the 2021 URSI GASS in Rome, Italy.
 2. USNC-URSI is considering whether to continue printing programs for the NRSM and distribute only PDF programs. Please ask your members whether printed

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programs are still desired, and if so would they be willing to pay a \$5-10 fee to cover the printing cost.

3. This year we received only 7 Student Paper Competition entries, and from those only 5 were qualified to be judged. Typically, at least 15 entries are received. Do members have any feedback as to what may be the reasons?
4. USNC-URSI is making plans to hold the 2021 NRSM either entirely online, or (if COVID restrictions relax) in person at Boulder with a partial online program. Any comments on this? If we do decide to hold an in-person meeting, what percentage of members will travel to attend?
5. John Volakis has a proposal to move the NRSM to Miami, FL, beginning in 2022. (Commission Chairs should have slides from the proposal.) After a site visit and further discussion, we may vote on this proposal during the 2021 NRSM. Are there any comments about the proposal?
6. Seeking nominations for USNC-URSI Secretary and Chair Elect.

21) Old Business (Rengarajan)

- None.

22) New Business (Rengarajan)

- None.

23) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 pm EDT.