



Minutes and action items of the
spring meeting of the
Netherlands URSI Committee
May 20th, 2021
On-line meeting

Distribution list:

Participants :	For information:
- S.J. Wijnholds [SW, chair] – ASTRON - R. Serra [RS, vice chair] – TU/e - M.A. Brentjens [MAB] - E. Dierikx [ED] – VSL - W.C. van Etten [WvE] – UT emeritus - A. Glazunov [AG] – UT - Ulf Johannsen [UJ] – TU/e and ASTRON - Raul Perez [RP] – ESA / ESTEC - F. Uysal [FU] – TUD - P. Zwamborn [PZ] - TNO	All NUC members

Auteur(s) / Author(s):	Organisatie / Organization	Datum / Date
R. Serra, S.J. Wijnholds	Netherlands URSI Committee	May 20 th , 2020
Goedkeuring / Approval:		
NUC	Netherlands URSI Committee	

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1 Opening

The chair opens the meeting at 10:03 hrs. He received apologies from Maarten Paulides and Nicolas Floury. The chair welcomes the new members and a brief round of introductions is made.

2 Agenda

The agenda is approved.

3 Minutes and action items of the fall meeting on November 11, 2019

PZ expresses mixed feelings about the Aad de Hoop symposium due to the online nature of the event, but definitely not about honoring Aad de Hoop.

Action items:

#52: we welcome Andrés Glazunov, Ulf Johannsen and Raul Perez

#55: no update, SW contact JGbdV offline

#79: ongoing, hopefully if we go back to normal

#105: MAB had contact with Onno de Meijer. Onno changed job, but he might be willing to sponsor the NUC from his new position. MAB will send a reminder. PZ can also help contact him. UJ asks about sponsorship and whether it is a one-time-only thing or sustained. MAB and RS answer that sustained support is preferred. It is always a struggle. There is no clear motivation for companies to sponsor the NUC. SJW clarifies the way URSI is organized around Member Committees instead of around individual people being members. Contribution is therefore paid by Member Committees instead of individual scientists. This is a different situation than, for example, the IEEE model.

#108: no update, SW will ask MJB offline

#116: item 7b on agenda

#119: contact with ESA has been re-established with help from Bertram Arbesser

#120: item 7b on agenda

4 Announcements

- The GASS was postponed, and therefore the other flagship events have been moved as well. So, the AP-RASC and AT-RASC will collide. At the beginning the thought was that this won't create much problems, due to the different "audiences". However, AP-RASC 2022 was in Sydney and it is expected that strong restriction will be in place in Australia. So, Sydney suspends the AP-RASC to 2025.
- Mirela Fetescu (ESA-ESTEC) has been awarded a YS Award for the upcoming URSI GASS 2021. Congratulations!
- MAB: a spectrograph under his development has been granted. Congratulations! A discussion on the pertinence and importance of counting on this technology is triggered. Interest from ministry, etc. RP asks about the application of this technology for ESA. It may be interesting for them as well. Possible collaboration ASTRON-ESA are identified, once the system is robust enough.

5 Financial status

a. Budget

PZ explains the budget 2020. The expenses are lower than normal and lower than the budgeted costs, due to corona. Some extra income is observed due to an extraordinary donation from TUD.



SRON has not contributed, but this is due to an administrative issue that will hopefully be resolved soon.

The result is approx. -750€, much less loss than budgeted, due to corona issues. We do not have a sustainable situation.

FU: the trend is always the same. There is always a negative result. All our efforts have failed in the past. SW: there was a good discussion in the last meeting. Contribution to Ghent gives us practically more representation in the council. SW will make an overview of the membership levels of the various Member Committees.

PZ: the horizon for sustainability is 3-4 years. So if we suddenly lose all sponsorship, we should have 3 years to react and survive without income.

b. Sponsoring

A little brainstorming is done on possible ways to raise more income via, e.g., the KNAW and to make URSI more visible within the Netherlands. Typically, the government provides funding for our type of activities through their institutions. Use the centennial book to share with KNAW and use it as "leverage".

RS notes that it is difficult to convince companies to sponsor: what is in it for them? PZ proposes to create a working group to discuss sponsoring in depth. SW will set up a working group on sponsoring.

6 Looking back

a. KIVI-URSI Event 29 April 2020

The event was organized by WvE. The topic was photonics. The online setting helped in the attendance and in the speakers. The meeting was interesting and triggered nice discussion and networking instances. WvE great satisfaction from the audience, a very successful session.

b. Report AT on radio noise and spectrum use

MAB summarizes the main points of the last meeting.

PZ protests against the increase in license costs for scientific experiments. MAB will raise this issue in the next meeting with AT.

c. Session in honor of Aad de Hoop

PZ summarizes the event. Despite all the difficulties (corona, online, fragile health state from Aad de Hoop) it was perceived as a success. Aad de Hoop was very emotional, he was very spot-on. His curiosity, enthusiasm and creativity for science remains outstanding. He was honored and received great recognition.



7 Planning/brainstorm other activities in 2021

a. URSI GASS 2021

Current status

Decision for a hybrid setting. All presenting authors pay the same fee (either online or on-site ones). There's a special fee for those willing to just "listen" without presenting. The program is being finalized. Constraints w.r.t. the different time zones are being considered.

The number of total submissions for 2021 has dropped w.r.t. 2020 from ~1900 to ~1600. 500 of which are re-submissions.

The centennial book will be introduced at the GASS 2021.

Elections

The Scientific Commissions are electing new Vice-Chairs and Early Career Representatives. The Council elects a new board. From the NUC, Willem Baan stands in the elections for (Vice-) President of URSI.

b. URSI Benelux Forum 2021

The meeting will be hosted by TU/e, but the LOC has to arrange everything itself, Bart Smolders (BS) made the suggestion to combine with retreat of Center for Wireless Technologies, nominally 1-day event, can become 2-day event (1-day CWT retreat, 1-day URSI Forum), proposed LOC: BS, MJB, RS, UJ. RS will organize meeting with LOC + SJW

The meeting probably needs to be organized in hybrid format (online and on campus).

Possible sponsoring options will be discussed by the LOC, but also with the working group on sponsoring of the NUC in general.

8 New NUC members

We have welcomed three new NUC members today.

9 AOB

There was no further business.

10 Closing

The chair closes the meeting at 12:01 hrs. and thanks everyone for attending and contributing to the discussions.

11 Updated action item list

No.	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
52	Look for new NUC members	All	-
55	Contact Agilent for sponsoring	JbdV	Next meeting



79	Try to improve attendance to URSI meetings	SW & RS	Next meeting
105	Contact D.A.R.E. for sponsorship	MAB	Next meeting
108	Contact Hyperion Technologies for sponsorship	MJB	Next meeting
121	Set up working group on sponsoring	SJW	Next meeting
122	Provide overview of membership levels of URSI Member Committees	SJW	Next meeting
123	Raise issue of increasing licensing costs for scientific experiments with OWF	MAB	Next meeting
124	Organize meeting with LOC of Forum meeting and SJW	RS	Next meeting