

**IRIS Board of Directors Meeting
October 6, 2021 (virtual)
Meeting Summary**

October 6, 2021 (4:30PM - 6:00PM ET)

In Attendance

IRIS Board Members: Richard Aster (Chair), Lara Wagner, Charles Ammon, Jackie Caplan-Auerbach, Victor Tsai, Brandon Schmandt, Sarah Kruse, Susan Schwartz

IRIS Staff Members: Bob Woodward, John Taber, Jerry Carter, Kent Anderson, Kasey Aderhold, Candy Shin

Additional Attendees: none

Welcome and Review of Agenda

Meeting minutes from previous monthly BoD meetings (Spring 2021 to present) were addressed.

Update on Merger Steering Committee Activities

The planning teams have been continuously meeting and have now shifted to Phase 2 (implementation planning). The Steering Committee (SC) meets every two weeks and the planning team leaders join once monthly.

The phases of planning were discussed. Phase 1 was defined as reaching out to determine team members, planning components, task building, etc. Phase 2 was defined as developing detailed plans (tasks and schedules) to accomplish the merger.

The role of the BoD in the merger process was discussed. The SC was tasked with creating a plan for, and overseeing, the merger process. The principles guiding the process were developed and presented to the BoD. The desire for increased SC-BoD communication was identified.

The first Community Focus Group Session (Mini Town Hall) is scheduled for October 13th. This focus group will be hosted by Bob Woodward and Rebecca Bendick with invites to member representatives and other interested parties at 4-year institutions that we may otherwise not hear from. If successful, additional sessions will be organized involving various cross-sections of the community and with different hosts.

Aster and Grapenthin met with the Management and Governance planning team on October 5th. A suggestion was made to hold an ESCO governance workshop in early 2022 with BoD chairs, IRIS/UNAVCO advisory committees, and IRIS/UNAVCO BoDs. Outcomes might include a recommendation for the advisory committee structure of ESCO and greater coordination between IRIS and UNAVCO across committees in the interim.

Annual Membership Meeting

The annual membership meeting is proposed for Tuesday, November 30th (1:00PM-3:00PM ET). This meeting will be a joint meeting between IRIS and UNAVCO (virtual only). The date/time is still flexible but was optimized for time zones, holidays, and AGU presentation submission deadline (December 7th). The format is a single joint meeting with a goal to re-inform and update the combined community on collective activities and ESCO planning, election results, highlights, accomplishments, present and future synergies, but no detailed business updates, such as financial reports. Discussion focused on what is

required for a quorum and if one is needed to conduct business at the membership meeting. This “town-hall like” membership meeting will not be conducting business, as the elections are handled in advance, electronically.

Nominating Committee (“NOMCOM”) and Election Update (Brandon Schmandt)

Historically, the ballots have had two slots with four people running (or three and six). We have two open slots this year and have identified three candidates so far. The NOMCOM is working on more UNAVCO cross-over and to invite nominees that address the need for broad expertise and representation. The plan for electronic voting is to have a three-week open voting window during the month of November. The BoD will need to approve the ballot mid-October.

Program Highlights and Updates

- GSN – Gradually beginning station visits while continuing remote work
- PASSCAL
 - 1,780 nodes received today (October 16th) completing the node pool plans
 - MT - new equipment arriving (first of wide-band instruments) and Y4 equipment order nearly ready to go which will complete the wide-band pool.
 - Polar - deployments to Antarctica will be starting soon with additional time for quarantine/restrictions; second season has been curtailed with hope to return to normal seasons in the future.
- TA - All planned demobilizations are complete.
- SNECCA w/LLNL – Working towards first data flow from new stations; comes after major changes to the plan due to the pandemic travel restrictions (as well as impacts locally).
- EPO - 117 undergraduate students completed the Seismic Skill Building Workshop in Summer 2021. This is a 26% completion rate which is very high for a free online course. There will be a plan and request for funding to continue this course.
 - AI(Taber): Ask Mike Brudzinski and Michael Hubenthal for more information on how students can be tracked after completion of this course.
- Data Services – Full speed ahead on the joint IRIS/UNAVCO Common Cloud Platform (“CCP”). Data Services had a major milestone review which was held in early September at which they reviewed the end-to-end status of the project.
- GLISN – A no-cost extension has been granted; the 5-year proposal is under review with a decision expected prior to Thanksgiving; telemetry has been curtailed due to a requirement that telemetry funding comes out of project funds when a project is in an NCE period.
- Other updates
 - New NSF Program - Centers for Innovation and Community Engagement in Solid Earth Geohazards NSF 21-628 ([link](#)) [note added in editing – this link is now working]

Debrief from September 27-30, 2021 NSF Management Review Panel

The response to NSF’s pre-panel Request for Information (RFI) and the slides briefed to the panel have been posted on the BoD website. A special thank-you to the BoD members that provided comments and feedback during the preparation of these materials. Significant time and effort was spent preparing and executing presentations as well as adhering to the tight turnarounds on requests from the panel during the course of the review.

The panel was constructive and sympathetic, and two panelists had experience/knowledge of mergers. Governance questions were included and were answered by Aster. The panel was impressed with the level of engagement and community governance at IRIS. Aster’s presence was appreciated by the panel.

Distribution of TA CMG-3Ts

The overall TA sensor disposition plan was approved at November 2020 board meeting. This plan included a plan for CMG-3Ts, which are not needed by SAGE-II programs. NSF has been briefed on the plan for distributing the CMG-3Ts. Applications have been received, reviewed, and a proposed recommendation for sensor distribution provided to the BoD. The recommendation prioritizes recipients who are ready to use the sensors and produce data. If approved by the BoD, a property disposition request will be sent to NSF and NSF will transfer sensors to the recipients.

AI (IRIS staff): Provide more information on the CMG-3T disposition: Significance of providing less sensors than the applicant indicates as their minimum; clarifying the situation for those institutions where the “open data” field indicates “unclear”; explain reasoning behind the relative distribution of sensors to different institutions.

IRIS/UNAVCO Joint Board Meeting - Friday, October 29th (2:00pm-4:00pm ET)

This joint meeting will be a two-hour block within the two-day Board meeting that UNAVCO is holding on the 28th and 29th.

AI (All): Identify key agenda topics for the IRIS/UNAVCO Joint Board meeting.

Full(er)-length November Board Meeting - 2-3 hour blocks are suggested.

Extended meeting times in November will provide an opportunity to communicate with standing committee chairs regarding their feedback to the guidance received from the BoD. This additional time will provide for more in-depth discussions on governance and other merger issues, program updates, and financial updates.

It was decided to poll for two two-hour blocks during the week of November 8th to go with the scheduled 1.5 hour block on November 3rd.

It was agreed that the new time slot of 4:30pm-6:00pm ET on Wednesdays will work well for the monthly meetings.

AI (IRIS staff): Poll the BoD to schedule the two additional meetings for the week of November 8th.

The meeting adjourned at ~6:05 PM (ET).