

**IRIS Board of Directors Meeting
November 9-10, 2020
Virtual Meeting**

AGENDA

Monday, November 9th (1:00pm-6:05pm ET)

1:00pm-1:20pm	Welcome – Chair’s and President’s Remarks Review of Meeting Agenda Review Minutes From Previous Meetings
1:20pm-1:50pm	Final Preparation For Call with NSF & USGS
1:50pm-2:35pm	Conference call with Maggie Benoit & Mike Jackson (NSF)
2:35pm-2:50pm	Break
2:50pm-3:20pm	Conference call with Cecily Wolfe and Bill Barnhart
3:20pm-3:50pm	Discussion of calls with NSF & USGS
3:50pm-5:20pm	Programmatic Updates & Topics
5:20pm-6:05pm	CoCom Issues for Board (Thurber)
6:05pm	Adjourn and debrief over refreshments

Tuesday, November 10^h (1:00pm-6:00pm ET)

1:00pm-1:45pm	Management and Program Guidance
1:45pm-2:15pm	Budget and Finance Report (Shin)
2:15pm-2:30pm	Break
2:30pm-3:15pm	Merger & Solicitation Planning and Updates
3:15pm-3:40pm	Other Issues
3:40pm-4:00pm	Other Proposals
4:00pm-4:15pm	Pursuing Foundation Funds
4:15pm-4:30pm	Break
4:30pm-6:00pm	Board Executive Session (Board + President Only)
6:00pm	Adjourn

Abbreviated Minutes

Day 1 – November 9, 2020

Attendees:

IRIS Board: Rick Aster (chair), Cliff Thurber (vice-chair), Samantha Hansen, Susan Schwartz, Jackie Caplan-Auerbach, Brandon Schmandt, Sarah Kruse, Chuck Ammon, and Vera Schulte-Pelkum

IRIS staff: Bob Woodward (President), Candy Shin, John Taber, Jerry Carter, and Kent Anderson

Introductory remarks and agenda overview (Aster and Woodward)

- Brief updates on plans for mid-scale infrastructure proposal, GLISN proposal resubmission
- Implementation Steering Committee (ISC) working on pre-planning for merger; timeline of establishing plans in preparation for NSF solicitation

- An overview was provided regarding the RFI responses (from potential partners) to host parts of merged organization.

Conference calls were held with NSF (Maggie Benoit, Mike Jackson)

Questions for NSF were sent ahead of time

A conference call was held with the USGS (Cecily Wolfe, Bill Barnhart)

Questions for USGS were sent ahead of time

Programmatic Updates

Instrumentation Services (Anderson)

While activities have slowed, COVID-19 has not shut-down functionality; U.S. fieldwork starting to get underway again

- *GSN*: Jeff Park has accepted position as chair for GSN design goals working group; Uzbekistan station MOU has been signed
- *PASSCAL*: 38 new experiments started (lower because of COVID); 66 continuing experiments; working on sustainability plans; data delivery to DMC increasing due to node usage – nodal requests/funding continue to climb (broadband usage pretty steady; short-period usage dropping)
- *Frontier activities*: investigating broadband and mid-period instruments for wavefield imaging; rapid response activities focused on gathering community input
- *Seismic source facility*: P- and S-source becoming more heavily subscribed (joint SSF/PASSCAL experiment)
- *MT*: electrode procurement finished; RFP for software in process (selection soon); webinars to promote facility to community
- *Polar*: fully staffed again; unusual field seasons – lots of “catch up” anticipated in future years; 200 nodes will be permanently placed in Antarctica; PSTC meeting on 11/13; GLISN resubmission; EAGER drilling proposal at Erebus altitudes; South Pole DAS EAGER proposal delayed until 2021-2022 season

Data Services (Carter)

- Teleworking has been going well during COVID; outstanding “uptime” (100% over last five quarters)
- CCP-related projects: GeoHDF (PH5 replacement), performance metrics, nominal response library upgrade, identity management

EPO (Taber)

- Reallocation of staff time and financial resources freed by COVID-19 restrictions; expansion/promotion of online resources and clarification of future plans
- Seismology Skill Building Workshop: Summer 2020 REU was canceled so this was run instead; 750 undergraduate registrants from 60 countries (199 students completed all 35 tutorials over 14 weeks) – aimed at increasing students’ skills in computing and understanding seismic concepts.
 - Tutorials may be made available for teaching purposes
- Other COVID-19 responses: teachable moment investigations, “Wednesdays with Wendy”, virtual classroom/camp visits and highlighting virtual resources
 - Downloads of videos, lessons, animations have increased 59% compared to last year
 - NSF EAGER funding to develop intro-level graduate-level seismology materials

- SAGE Diversity Initiative (IGUaNA): curriculum development to engage first and second year undergraduate, underrepresented minority students; three 2-3 week modules completed – piloting has begun (topics: salt marsh pollution, urban renewal planning, identification of historical burial grounds and urban infrastructure)
- Fort Valley State University (FVSU) Collaboration: most African American students who participate in IRIS REU come from FVSU; IRIS helped them develop a GeoPATHS proposal (expand IRIS REU program, pilot careers module, engage HBCUs in geosciences)
- ShakeAlert: IRIS is educational partner through USGS funding; collaboration with SCEC/USGS to fund Quake Catcher Network
- Non-SAGE funding: InSight (JPL/NASA, shared with DS), ShakeAlert (USGS), IRIS REU, Women in Geosciences video series

CoCom Discussion

PASSCAL procurements (Anderson, joined by Beatrice Magnani): reallocate funds (carryover funds, Frontier funds, de-obligated NMT subaward funds) to boost nodal pool; Frontier funds and underspending of M&S can allow for broadband and mid-period sensor purchases too; returning of TA posthole systems will help broadband issue too

VOTE: Schwartz moved to approve the PASSCAL Standing Committee’s proposal to recapitalize the funds; Ammon seconded. Motion was unanimously passed.

EPO (Taber)

- IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lectureship: three approved lecturers for 2021; however, committee proposes to end series (hard to attract large in-person audiences, exacerbated by COVID); switch to larger number of speakers in larger venues (both in-person and online) to reach larger/younger audiences (“Science Ambassadors”); could easily be expanded to include UNAVCO community
VOTE: Hansen moved and Schwartz seconded to end the IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lectureship and to restructure the presentations with new approach. Motion was unanimously passed.
- Simpson Fund: all spent on international interns so far; committee suggests pausing on these proposals until next year given COVID and perhaps issuing a revised RFP next year
VOTE: Thurber moved and Ammon seconded to revise the RFP next year and pause on Simpson Fund awards this year. Motion was unanimously passed.
- 2021 GAGE/SAGE Science Workshop (August 17-20): foster community between geodetic and seismic researchers (share results, plan future endeavors); need to decide on meeting format (in-person, hybrid, or virtual) – Taber shared associated timeline for this decision (final decision needed by January)
Action Item: Board will consider format further and wait until January to make a decision; may be voted on via email

Day 2 – November 10, 2020

Attendees:

IRIS Board: Rick Aster (chair), Cliff Thurber (vice-chair), Samantha Hansen, Susan Schwartz, Jackie Caplan-Auerbach, Brandon Schmandt, Sarah Kruse, Chuck Ammon, and Vera Schulte-Pelkum

IRIS staff: Bob Woodward (President), Candy Shin, John Taber, Jerry Carter, and Kent Anderson

Continuing CoCom Discussion (Woodward and Anderson)

Polar: continued coordination with UNAVCO; upcoming PSTC meeting – new liaison will be needed next year since Hansen leaving the Board; GLISN proposal resubmission

TA: posthole sensors (111) returned from Alaska will head to PASSCAL; other (lower 48) sensors have mostly been distributed between GSN and PASSCAL, but some residual sensors (CMG-3Ts, STS-2.5s) are being considered for donation to U.S. researchers and/or monitoring agencies (needs to be approved by both Board and NSF)

Action Item: Woodward will discuss the sensor donations with NSF

VOTE: Pending NSF approval, Thurber moved and Schmandt seconded to approve the planned TA sensor distribution. Motion was unanimously passed.

Rapid Response White Paper: significant feedback has been received on white paper already; outlines IRIS plans to create new instrumentation capability for rapid response to geohazards

VOTE: Caplan-Auerbach moved and Ammon seconded to release the white paper to the community. Motion unanimously passed, though Schwartz emphasized that implementation policies need to be clarified.

Instrumentation Services Panel Review (Woodward)

- The outcomes of this review were briefed.

Budget and Finance Report (Shin)

- New audit firm (Calibre CPA Group) is completing their FY20 report; will be shared later this month; extension filed for Form 990 filing so could potentially be finished early next year (if not sooner)
- Review of indirect rates by NSF Cost Analysis and Pre-award Branch; FY19 actual rates review is currently in progress.
- Unrestricted funds and investments
- Board approval of unallowable expenses
- Simpson Innovation Fund
- FY21 indirect rates
- SAGE II budget status

Merger and Solicitation - Planning and Updates (Woodward)

- Activities in this area were briefed and discussed.
- Conflicts of Interest (COI) and Non-disclosure Agreements (NDA): Board reviewed drafts of both documents; already sent to staff but would also be sent to all governance committee members
VOTE: Hansen moved and Schwartz seconded to approve the COI and NDA documents and to send them out to the governance members. The motion was passed unanimously.

Other Issues (Woodward)

Status of SZ4D and CONVERSE: conceptual ideas for experiments are starting to come together to address large-scale science questions.

Strategic Planning: Board agreed (in August) to pursue a refresh of the 2020 strategic plan to guide upcoming proposal process; perhaps address this via a virtual retreat in conjunction with the winter Board meeting (late January or early February?)

Action Item: Woodward will send out a Doodle poll to the Board members to schedule the Winter and Spring Board meetings

New Initiatives / Candidate Proposals (Woodward)

Several candidate and/or pending proposals were discussed, including:

- MSRI proposal: solicitation has been released
- OTIC
- Rupture and Fault Zone Observatory
- DLERT

Executive Session (Board and President)

- Minutes from previous Board meetings have been released; a few minor edits were made.
 - **VOTE:** Caplan-Auerbach moved and Kruse seconded to approve the prior meeting minutes. Motion was passed unanimously.
- New liaisons to PSTC and DSSC will be appointed in January, once new Board members are selected
- Governance membership suggestions for EPO, IDS, MT, PAS, GSN, and DS committees were reviewed
 - **VOTE:** Kruse moved and Schwartz seconded to approve the governance committee appointments as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.
- *Upcoming Board meetings:* Winter Board meeting will likely take place in late January 2021; last week of March or first week of April will be targeted for Spring 2021 Board meeting – as noted above, Woodward will send out associated Doodle poll.