

August 31, 2020, GEM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
(virtual meeting, conducted via Webex)

Attendance - Vania Jordanova (Chair), Adam Kellerman (Interim Vice Chair), Allison Jaynes, Yihua Zheng, Lynn Kistler, Chia-Lin Huang, Chris Mouikis, Steve Petrinec, Matina Gkioulidou, Chih-Ping Wang, Seth Claudepierre, Raluca Ilie, Shin Ohtani, Hyunju Connor, Alex Glocer, John Lyon, Brian Walsh, Matthew Cooper, Agnit Mukhopadhyay, Mei-Yun Lin, Andrew Dimmock, Joe Borovsky, Lutz Rastaetter, Howard Singer, Lisa Winter

1. Welcome/Agenda (Vania Jordanova)

2. Virtual GEM 2020 Workshop Recap (Vania Jordanova)

Plenary sessions (Chia-Lin, Chris): The VGEM was a success, with great feedback from the community. To formally capture feedback, a participant survey with 10 questions was sent out, receiving 52 responses by the time of this meeting. The Plenary and FG sessions were most popular, followed by the virtual poster session. The community expressed a desire for more discussion, though it was stated that this is an ongoing challenge. Related to this was to ensure that talks are kept on time, particularly in a virtual setting, but at any time to promote discussion. The Slack was a well-received tool for helping with discussion. The GEM SC will endeavor to ensure it's a safe and appropriate platform, focused on GEM-related discussion. International participants really appreciated the plenary talks. The VGEM website was well liked, and the community provided suggestions to improve the website, which will be taken under consideration. The community found that information supplied was generally sufficient, but better coordination between information sources would help to improve it.

Student Day (Matt, Agnit, Mei-Yun): GEM student day was a great success, with 180 students signed in, which is much more than the previous maximum of 123 people. The attendees were distributed across the world with 35% non-US. Students at VGEM 2020 favored a mixture of talks (from student and non-student) as compared to a majority of student-led talks in 2019. The SC considered the balance between mixed talks and how they can best benefit the students. There will be an effort made to ensure that mixed talks are included in GEM student day going forward, while preserving the fundamental aspect of student-led talks to promote professional development.

There was no strong feeling from students regarding whether they (a) received good scientific feedback on their presentations, or (b) were able to connect with other students and scientists. This and other reports from the meeting pointed to the need for enhanced student involvement in FG activities to help include students and increase interactivity. Better communication is needed to connect students to FG-related opportunities, such as helping with moderation or other activities. The #support-each-other Slack channel was well received.

Special session Decadal Future and Beyond (Yihua): This was a well-attended and productive session which, primarily, covered aspects of science and community. There were many community comments on the great discussions that occurred in this session. A distilled summary will be submitted to the GEM Messenger.

Special session Machine Learning (Adam): Well attended with 98 attendees, and much discussion on the Slack channel. There will be a survey sent out, and there is an upcoming AGU town hall, to help shape future efforts. The ongoing effort to ensure that a ML resource is available to the GEM community may include a ML Resource Group (RG), or to encourage the ML session leaders to apply for a new FG. The SC discussed several paths forward for the RG's in general, including encouraging them to hold stand-alone sessions at GEM to introduce tools and concepts. These would be in addition to regular joint sessions with FG's. The SC will reach out to the ML group to work on a path forward.

NSF highlights (Vania): A joint GEM/CEDAR presentation highlighting successes and lessons learned from the virtual meetings will be prepared and submitted to NSF.

3. Resume GEM Vice-Chair search (Vania Jordanova)

We will resume the search for GEM Vice-Chair (Chair-Elect), and applications will be accepted for several months.

4. GEM Wiki updates (Vania Jordanova and Adam Kellerman)

Postponed to the next meeting.

5. Mini-GEM workshop (Vania Jordanova)

Postponed to the next meeting.

6. GEM governance during crisis situations (Seth Claudepierre)

Postponed to the next meeting.

7. Meeting adjourned