

November 20, 2020, GEM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
(Virtual meeting, conducted via WebEx)

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

1. Welcome/Agenda (Vania Jordanova)

2. Mini-GEM and GEM FG update (Vania Jordanova, Chris Mouikis, Chia-Lin Huang)

This year the Mini-GEM meeting will be held online from January 19-22, 2021. In contrast to the Virtual Summer Workshop, each FG is responsible for setting up their respective 2-hour Zoom virtual meeting. In order to evenly spread (as much as possible) the meetings over the four days, the Meeting Organizers (MOs) Chris Mouikis & Chia-Lin Huang have put together a sign-up sheet where the FG Leaders can input the time slot they prefer; several FG leaders have responded so far. The MOs will be working with the FG Leaders to set up the Mini-GEM agenda that will be posted at the GEM Workshop page. Since all FG Leaders requested to extend their FG terms by one year due to COVID-19 crisis, there will be no solicitation of new FG proposals this year.

3. GEM Vice-Chair Search (Vania Jordanova)

The search by the GEM SC for an energetic and strategic leader to serve as the GEM Vice-Chair (Chair-Elect) is underway. The SC invites interested members of the community to apply for this position or to nominate community members that would make excellent candidates. All applications will be reviewed at the next SC meeting. The SC discussed the process for considering only one candidate for the position. The SC voted (unanimously) to introduce a higher majority requirement of 60% of voting steering committee members, if there is only one candidate for any SC position.

4. GEM Summer Workshop 2021 (Vania Jordanova, Chris Mouikis, Chia-Lin Huang)

Various options were discussed by the GEM SC regarding whether to hold a virtual, hybrid, or in-person GEM 2021. The main issue raised by Chris and Chia-Lin was that there is a minimum requirement on attendance for the GEM 2021 meeting in Hawaii. Given uncertainties surrounding the pandemic, and the likelihood that many people will avoid travel into the new year, the GEM SC decided to vote to cancel the GEM 2021 in-person meeting in Hawaii (13 - 1). Since GEM and SHINE are both part of the meeting, the MOs will communicate this decision with the hotel in Hawaii and with the SHINE SC to coordinate the cancellation. The discussion regarding the format of GEM 2021 summer workshop was postponed until the next SC meeting.

5. GEM updates (Vania Jordanova, Raluca Ilie, Seth Claudepierre)

A plan for reporting on GEM FG activities, post summer workshop, was presented by Raluca and Seth. Specifically, an effort to help facilitate and align FG reporting, provide guidance, and require FG leaders to address several required fields. A web-based interface solution was suggested, which would handle, in part, the submission and processing of reports. Further information and development of the idea will continue over the coming weeks.

Several updates have been made to the GEM wiki, following past decisions by the GEM SC. Specifically, there are several updates to the GEM Bylaws and Personnel sections.

6. Meeting adjourned