

**July 12, 2021, GEM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**(Virtual meeting, conducted via Webex)**

Attendance - Vania Jordanova (Chair), Adam Kellerman (Vice Chair), Agnit Mukhopadhyay, Allison Jaynes, Brian Walsh, Chia-Lin Huang, Chih-Ping Wang, Chris Mouikis, Howard Singer, Hyunju Connor, Ian Cohen, Jesse Woodroffe, John Lyon, Lisa Winter, Lynn Kistler, Mei-Yun Lin, Raluca Ilie, Seth Claudepierre, Shin Ohtani, Steve Petrinec, Yihua Zheng

**1. Welcome/Agenda (Vania Jordanova)**

**2. VGEM 2021 – Student Activities (Agnit and Mei-Yun, Chia-Lin)**

Agnit presented the student-day schedule. There will be a new special topic session on the Decadal Survey, which will be presented by Ian Cohen. The schedule will be advertised in Gather.Town and the GEM Wiki. Student moderators will introduce each plenary speaker. All student moderators have been assigned, though the student representatives are awaiting confirmation from some students.

Mei-Yun and Agnit presented the Gather.Town experience through a live preview. The Meeting Organizers (MOs) have purchased a month of Gather.Town, allowing up to 300 users to join the virtual environment simultaneously. There will be some limits regarding the size of files that can be uploaded to Gather.Town which will impact some posters. Details on restrictions will be provided to the poster presenters so that they can alter their uploads as required.

The MOs have purchased a domain “vgem.org”, which is hosting the virtual GEM website for VGEM 2021 and going forward. The functionality of the website was presented by Chia-Lin.

**3. VGEM 2021 – Workshop Training (Chia-Lin, Chris, Allison)**

Zoom webinar training will occur in the week prior to VGEM. The SC discussed running two sessions, to allow some flexibility for VGEM speakers to join. The dates of these sessions will be finalized during this week and sent to all plenary speakers, session chairs, and moderators.

The bystander intervention training will occur this Friday, 9 am PDT. The information was sent to all SC members and FG leads. People who didn't sign up to the poll can still attend, and just need to contact Allison prior to the meeting.

**4. VGEM 2021 – Opening Remarks (Vania)**

The GEM Chair will provide opening remarks during VGEM. Vania will introduce new subcommittees, SC members, and recent activities of the GEM SC. She will also mention the GEMStone “In Memoriam” section, the Sam Bingham Community Care Initiative (SBCCI), and talk to recent losses in our community. Each SC member will provide a photo to the Chair to aid in transparency.

**5. VGEM 2021 – Session on “GEM History, Present, Future” (Vania, Matina)**

The session organization is proceeding as previously discussed.

**6. VGEM 2021 – Decadal Future Sessions (RAC's, Yihua, Ian)**

The Thursday evening session will be dedicated to discuss summaries for each of the five Research Areas. Currently, it will be up to the Research Area Coordinators (RACs) to organize the speaker/summary based on the discussions that have taken place in the afternoon splinter sessions and during the week. There will be no expectation of a detailed report, rather, just to speak to insights gained during the discussions thus far.

Lisa Winter suggested to invite NSF, NASA, and NOAA representatives to present during the decadal session. It was discussed to have 5-minute summaries from the agencies, then the RAC summaries, and finally, open discussion. The Decadal Subcommittee will formulate an agenda for the evening session, and circulate it to the Steering Committee.

After this discussion, Ian suggested that it may be better to have the agencies talk on Monday morning to help set the scene. Since there will be ample time, it was decided to reduce the Thursday evening session to 1 hour, including the five RA summaries and open discussion for 10 minutes.

**7. VGEM 2021 – SBCCI Sessions (Chris, Allison)**

Dr. Janet Vertesi has confirmed to talk during the SBCCI plenary session, and will be available on Slack before and after her presentation.

Dr. Sapolsky will not be able to present during the evening SBCCI session, due to other commitments. Chris has reached out to Dr. Mary McMillan, from The University of New England, Australia. The GEM SC is currently looking for additional potential speakers.

**8. GEMEE Mentor/Mentee Program (Hyunju)**

Several mentees have signed up. Nine students have selected mentors, and the remaining 11 or so mentees have yet to select a mentor. The student reps will send questionnaires to help start conversations. The DEI Subcommittee will coordinate the final matchmaking via email.

**9. GEMstone Update (Allison)**

The GEMstone newsletter (Vol. 31, No. 1) has been finalized and will be posted on the GEM Wiki. The SC discussed publishing two issues each year, one in the Fall and one in Spring. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

**10. GEM Logo Update (Chia-Lin)**

The GEM SC will develop a Google form to aid the community in voting on the new GEM logo. Voting will be able to occur in Gather.town or via the form directly. The winner will be announced on Friday, on the last day of VGEM 2021.

**11. GEM Photo/Video Collection (Adam)**

Over 150 photos were received from the community. The GEM SC is now collating them together and preparing for use in the meeting.

**12. GEM Chair Blog & Communications (Vania)**

The Chair, Vice Chair, and MOs discussed the need for the Chair's blog. It was discussed that the blog doesn't reach many folks in the community. The usefulness of the blog was brought into question. It was suggested that live tweeting really helps to include folks that can't attend a conference. In addition, it's public, so it can reach a much wider audience.

It was discussed that introduction of an additional form of communication may not be necessary, especially considering the existing forms of communication (GEM Messenger and Slack), and the increased load that has been placed on all GEM SC members in the last couple of years. The GEM SC will consider whether any additional forms of communication are really necessary to achieve the goals of GEM.

**13. Meeting adjourned**