

November 9, 2021, GEM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
(Virtual meeting, conducted via Webex)

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

1. Welcome/Agenda (Vania Jordanova)

2. GEM Research Area Coordinators Selection (Vania Jordanova)

The Steering Committee (SC) discussed the merit of each applicant for the Research Area Coordinator (RAC) positions, his or her contributions to the GEM program, and the diversity of the SC.

The SC first discussed the four applicants for the IMAG RAC position, considering that the coordinator to be replaced is Seth Claudepierre. The SC discussed the pros and cons of applicants who were primarily IMAG, and those who had more established ties with other focus topics or NSF programs. The SC voted and selected Lunjin Chen for the IMAG RAC position.

Next, the SC discussed the two applicants for the position of the MIC RAC currently held by Shin Ohtani, specifically considering their strengths and experience. The SC voted and selected Sarah Vines for the MIC RAC position.

Finally, the SC discussed the applicant for the MPS RAC position, which is currently held by Matina Gkioulidou. The GEM Bylaws stipulate that at least half of the steering committee members have to approve of the applicant for them to be selected. Kevin Genestreti received a 100% approval from the SC and was elected as the new MPS RAC.

The SC bid farewell to the three outgoing RACs, Seth Claudepierre, Shin Ohtani and Matina Gkioulidou, and thanked them for their outstanding service over the past six years.

3. Updates from NSF GEM Program Director (Lisa Winter)

Few GEM Proposals Received: Lisa mentioned that the GEM program has not yet received proposals this fiscal year. The number of the base proposals also fell during the pandemic. The SC discussed that one potential reason for the decrease in submitted proposals was that the community had an understanding that NSF funding was much more difficult to obtain than NASA funds. Although funding also fell for SHINE and CEDAR, the decrease has not been as drastic. The current success rate for GEM proposals is at 56%. Lisa suggested reinstating the proposal deadline. The SC agreed that the deadline was certainly a factor, but also raised concerns regarding the difficulty/confusion of addressing broader impacts, and requirements for students or post docs as potential reasons why the community has not submitted. Lisa clarified

that the latter were not requirements, and noted that further communication may be helpful. One idea raised was to have GEM Messenger reminders to encourage folks to submit, by providing dates for evaluation of proposals. Another idea was to provide quarterly 'soft' deadlines. There were mixed opinions regarding reinstating the annual deadline, and Lisa took the discussion under consideration.

New Topic Areas for Proposal Compliance: Lisa suggested having four topic areas to help encourage proposal submission for the GEM program. They are as follows: 1) active GEM FGs, 2) connection of the magnetosphere with climate, 3) Use of machine learning or artificial techniques, 4) comparative magnetosphere studies.

The SC discussed that the proposals should be relevant to GEM, and so relevance to (1) would be desirable. However, the SC discussed that requiring compliance with one or more of these may exclude some members in the community. Lisa asked for input from the student representatives, who mentioned that students might be unaware of the NSF funding provided and proposal opportunities. Lisa will work with the student representatives to improve communication of information regarding opportunities and current funding provided.

4. Update on Word Template for FG Reports (Raluca Ilie)

The GEM SC developed a standardized Google form and a Word template after it, to streamline the Focus Group (FG) report submission process. This Google form, linked to on the GEM Wiki, was revised by Raluca, who corrected a small error. The SC discussed the pros and cons of the Word document and the Google form. Vania noted that the SC agreed last time to use the Word template, and will proceed to send it out to the FG chairs with a deadline of January 31, 2022. The Word template will also be posted on the GEM Wiki for future reference.

5. Mini-GEM Hybrid Meeting Update (Chris Mouikis & Chia-Lin Huang)

The organization of a hybrid Mini-GEM workshop on the Sunday (December 12th) before the AGU conference in New Orleans is well underway; there will be 8 hybrid groups, and 2 virtual-only groups. The mini-GEM schedule has been settled, the contract has been received from the Hilton Garden Inn, and the Meeting Organizers (MOs) are working to finalize the arrangements. The rooms have been booked from 12 noon until 9 pm. The SC will also hold a hybrid meeting at mini-GEM and the MOs will obtain a head count for catering purposes. They will post soon an announcement in the GEM Messenger to provide information regarding mini-GEM and to request participants' registration (no fee) in order to determine the number of expected guests.

6. Update on the FG Proposal Call (Vania Jordanova)

The FG proposal call was posted in the GEM Messenger, and some questions were received. One question asked if a SC member could co-chair a FG proposal. It was clarified that SC members cannot lead, but they can be co-chairs of a focus group. The second question was with regards to whether the bibliography counts towards the page limit in the proposals. It was agreed that the reference list should not count towards the page limit and to allow an additional page for references only. To give equal opportunity to all proposers, the FG selection process that is usually held in the evening at mini-GEM, will occur virtually this year, a week prior to mini-GEM. The date is yet to be determined.

7. Collaboration Between GEM and the Magnetosphere of the Outer Planets (Ian Cohen)

Ian discussed the magnetospheres of the outer planets (MOP) group, founded by Fran Bagenal, and the relevance to current and future GEM program. The SC discussed a future joint meeting with MOP, and whether it could be fully joint, partially joint, or back-to-back. Ian will reach out to the MOP leadership to discuss how a joint meeting may look, and the SC will return to the discussion at a future meeting.

8. Meeting adjourned