

February 28, 2022, GEM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

(Virtual meeting, conducted via Webex)

Attendance: Vania Jordanova (Chair), Adam Kellerman (Vice Chair), Alex Glocer, Brian Walsh, Chris Mouikis, Chia-Lin Huang, Chih-Ping Wang, Elizabeth Vandegriff, Howard Singer, Hyunju Connor, Ian Cohen, Jesse Woodroffe, Jing Liao, John Lyon, Keven Genestreti, Lisa Winter, Lunjin Chen, Lutz Rastaetter, Lynn Kistler, Mei-Yun Lin, Raluca Ilie, Sarah Vines, Steve Petriner, Yihua Zheng, Ying Zou

1. Welcome/Agenda (Vania Jordanova)

The Steering Committee (SC) welcomes Jing Liao who will be helping Chris Mouikis with the GEM workshop organization since Chia-Lin Huang has accepted a new position at NSF as a Program Director for Magnetospheric Physics and Solar-Terrestrial Research Programs.

2. Summer 2022 GEM Workshop (Chris Mouikis, Vania Jordanova)

Schedule/Activities:

A preliminary schedule has been put together, and details will follow soon. The GEM SC discussed the possibility for GEM and SHINE students to visit the DKIST Observatory by considering two options: 1) the visit occurs on the Saturday between the workshops (in conflict with the GEM-SHINE joint days), or 2) the visit occurs at the end of the SHINE workshop and is open only to SHINE students. Both the SC and Lisa Winter expressed their wish that a number of GEM students should be able to join as well, however, due to facility regulations, there is an 80-100 student limit, with only ~15 students allowed inside at a time. If option 1 is chosen and GEM students are allowed to attend, the students interested to join the visit will have to provide a written statement detailing how the visit would be useful for their research. This information will be used to rank the applications and fill the number of slots allocated to GEM. The discussions with SHINE regarding possible slots for GEM students will continue offline.

In Person/Hybrid Options:

The December mini-GEM workshop proved to be more difficult than thought, especially the 'seamless' participation between virtual/in person attendees. One major concern was the poor internet within hotels, and the need to upgrade the internet to support the hybrid format, but at this time we don't expect a great improvement in Hawaii. There were also lessons learned from the AGU conference. The 'hybrid state of mind' was identified as the worst problem for a successful meeting, and the 'diffusion of interest' that results from the hybrid format. It was suggested to call it an 'in-person workshop with limited virtual components', so that we do not raise expectations given these limitations; the SC will commit to providing the best experience possible for remote attendees, but the limits of virtually attending should be made clear. Concerns about NASA Conference Tracking System limitations were raised and it was agreed to take the discussion offline.

Website, Registration, Hotel

The plan is to have most details available by March 11 on the workshop website. This will include the student support application, registration, hotel reservations, and final schedule dates. Travel for students will be arranged by March 25, and the meeting schedule will be prepared by May 1.

Plenary Subcommittee

The SC begun the process of finding members for the plenary subcommittee (for planning, choosing tutorial speakers, etc). RAC will discuss offline and one volunteer from each RA will reach out to Vania and Adam. It was suggested that there are multiple Heliophysics Mission Concept Studies (HMCS), with five relevant to GEM; the plenary committee will discuss including these in the schedule.

3. DEI Planning and Subcommittee (Adam Kellerman)

The GEM SC is looking for two volunteers to join the committee, to continue the DEI mission within GEM. The first activity is occurring on March 3, the DEI happy hour, at 10-11 ET.

4. Organize GEM/Starlink Challenge (Jesse Woodroffe)

Recently, SpaceX lost 40 out of 49 satellites to an unremarkable geomagnetic event – in terms of activity – but which resulted in 20-100 million USD impact. Jesse encouraged folks in the GEM community to organize a challenge surrounding satellite drag, to help understand this event. The M-I coupling and GSM groups should take the lead on addressing this. Connecting with CEDAR folks would be best, and we could aim for joint challenges in the 2023 joint meeting. It was mentioned that efforts are already underway at CCMC to model satellite drag, and it was agreed that connection to CEDAR is crucial.

5. GEM Wiki Updates (Adam Kellerman)

The GEM wiki has experienced some network outages recently, the IT department at EPSS, UCLA, is aware of the issue and working on a resolution. Some closing focus groups asked if they could store information on the wiki for data longevity, therefore, it was requested that we receive some funding to upgrade the hardware and facilitate these upgrades. Lisa mentioned that it would be built into the NSF grant on the next round. The discussion will be taken offline.

6. GEMstone Reports (Vania Jordanova)

It was requested that outstanding reports should be sent to Allison Jaynes.

7. NSF Update (Lisa Winter)

Lisa welcomed Chia-Lin Huang to NSF, and reminded the community that the NSF/GEM proposal solicitation has been updated with a due date on March 30, 2022.

8. NOAA Update (Howard Singer)

The Space Weather Workshop is coming up in April 26-28, 2022, it will be fully virtual and registration will be free. Howard mentioned that this will be a great forum to form connections between our community and users, especially with respect to item #4.

9. Meeting Adjourned