

May 9, 2022, GEM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

(Virtual meeting, conducted via Webex)

Attendance: Vania Jordanova (Chair), Adam Kellerman (Vice Chair), Allison Jaynes, Chia-Lin Huang, Chris Mouikis, Chih-Ping Wang, Elizabeth Vandegriff, Howard Singer, Jing Liao, Mei-Yun Lin, Raluca Ilie, Sarah Vines, Yihua Zheng, Ying Zou

1. Welcome/Agenda (Vania Jordanova)

The Steering Committee (SC) welcomed Junga Hwang from the Korean Astronomy and Space Science Institute, who is replacing Jaejin Lee as the new GEM Liaison to Korea.

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

The meeting draft schedule has been completed and was presented in detail. We have confirmed speakers for all sessions except one, the SBCCI session. The speaker has been contacted but has not confirmed yet. It was suggested to swap the SWMI and MPS plenary sessions on Thursday and to rename the SBCCI Bystander intervention training session on Monday afternoon to be a plenary for clarity. Both items were actioned immediately.

Several committee members have reported that they will be traveling during the originally allocated time for the SC Meeting at the GEM Workshop, which was on Sunday evening. It was decided to send out a poll to determine the best time for committee members to attend the in-person SC meeting. The location of the Friday afternoon SBCCI social session was discussed, with a preliminary decision made to hold it at the same location as the poster sessions.

The MOs will ask everyone to fully utilize the workshop website, as it was only partially utilized last year. All the posters will be uploaded to the website, as well as the presentations. This will allow asynchronous viewing of the presentations and promote further discussion across GEM.

All eligible applicants (i.e., graduate students, postdocs) were given financial support to attend GEM. It was discussed that it may be beneficial to encourage participation of undergraduate students for GEM and support some applicants. A preselection subcommittee may be formed to help select students, rather than supporting everyone - the selection should be merit based. The committee discussed increasing funding for the support of such broadening participation of undergraduate students, through supplemental funding in the near future and a request for additional funds for students, both undergraduate and graduate during the renewal of the NSF grant.

The GEM-SHINE coordination subcommittee is brainstorming ideas for the joint sessions which will occur from 8:30 to 12:15 on both Saturday and Sunday, with 3 sessions each morning. They have sent out announcements to SPA, GEM, and SHINE newsletters.

3. GEM Statement on War & Violence (Vania Jordanova)

The GEM DEI Subcommittee drafted a statement on war and violence, which was distributed by email before the meeting and presented for review and approval by the steering committee. Since “deeply troubled” was found to be very emotional, it was replaced with “concerned”. A few more edits were actioned, and the statement was found ready for posting on the GEM wiki.

4. GEM Anti-Harassment Policy & Reporting (Adam Kellerman and Vania Jordanova)

The anti-harassment policy on the GEM wiki states that reports should be submitted to the grant holder's institution (currently UNH), however, the link to do so is buried within another document (NSF Conference Workshop Symposium Participant Notice). The GEM DEI subcommittee suggested that two additional forms should be created. One of these would be a general form, that includes any suggestions to improve GEM, while the second one would be an anonymous, informal, form that has the purpose of reporting harassment. The latter form would explicitly point the author to the UNH weblink if an official complaint is to be provided.

It was noted that the UNH incident report form is a little bureaucratic and may be a barrier for some folks who want to submit a report; keeping the two options, either speak to a SC member, or report it via the UNH online form is a good idea. Also, it may not be completely clear who the grant holder institution is, based on the anti-harassment policy document, and the text could be clarified. It was suggested to put a direct link on the GEM wiki after the text in the policy section, which would direct folks straight to the anti-harassment report page. It was also suggested to put this on the workshop website with the anti-harassment policy link.

In addition, we might be able to separate the formal incident report from the informal report, by asking the person reporting to redact names. In this way, it allows the GEM SC to take action on broader topics to improve GEM, without any bias towards specific individuals.

5. Call for rotating SC positions (Adam Kellerman and Vania Jordanova)

The GEM Messenger post was sent out over the weekend that several SC members are ending their terms: SC Vice-Chair (Chair-Elect); SC At-Large Member; and two Research Area Coordinators (RACs), for the Solar Wind - Magnetosphere Interaction (SWMI) and the Global System Modeling (GSM) research areas. Now the SC members should begin recruiting actively applications or nominations for these positions; the deadline is June 5.

6. GEMstone Updates (Allison Jaynes and Vania Jordanova)

We issued a final call for contributions to the GEMstone which should be published ASAP. A committee member may be willing to write an "In Memoriam" piece about George Siscoe's connections to GEM.

7. Meeting Adjourned