

Minutes of the March 21st USSCI Board meeting

Attendees:

- ESSCI:
 - Paul Papas (chairing),
 - Yiguang Ju,
 - Perrine Pepiot (online),
 - Mike Burke,
 - Michael Mueller,
 - Peter Sunderland
- WSSCI :
 - Guillaume Blanquart,
 - Erica Belmont,
 - David Lignell,
 - Brett Windom
- CSSCI:
 - Rob Trantner,
 - Waruna Kulatilaka,
 - Eric Petersen,
 - YaTing Liao (online)
- Renny Tassari

1. 40th ISC Meeting

José Torero Cullen and Bassam Dally joined the meeting (remotely) to give a presentation on the proposed changes to the submission and review process for the 40th International Symposium on Combustion. This follows on the two-page document that was circulated to the board members prior to the meeting.

Here is a summary of the proposed timeline:

- Deadline for paper submission on Nov 20th. The authors will have the choice between asking for oral presentation, poster presentation, or no preference.
- A group of 30 "respected" people will sort the submissions into oral or poster based on the "novelty" of the work.
- The oral submissions will be reviewed first.
- The poster submissions will be reviewed next.
- At the symposium, the accepted posters will have their own dedicated session with no parallel oral sessions.
- Both oral and poster accepted presentations will appear in the proceedings as published papers.

Bassam & José said they contacted all the section chairs (back in Nov) and they received near unanimous and favorable support for the proposed changes. The chairs of the ESSCI and the CSSCI confirmed that they received such communication. They both sent a reply stating their concerns and disagreements with certain proposed changes. As the request for comment from Bassam & José was listed as confidential,

they did not share it with anyone else. The chair of WSSCI has no record of receiving the email from Bassam & José.

The board got the impressions that these were not "proposed" changes, but rather "imposed" changes.

The CI board is scheduled to meet on March 30th at 9am EDT to discuss these proposed changes.

Serious concerns were raised by members of all three US sections, including:

- The very early deadline: Nov 20th is in the middle of the 76th Annual Meeting of the Division of Fluid Dynamics from APS. It is also 3 days before the US Thanksgiving holiday.
- The committee to sort the papers will have an extremely large burden. If 30 people look at 1800 papers, assuming only two reviewers per paper, that is 120 papers per person. This is at odds with the desire to reduce the review burden.
- The subjectivity/bias in sorting submissions into oral vs poster based on the definition of what is "novel". Staffing the sorting committee with only senior people will also not help the optics.
- The creation of a two-tier system: many authors will view the poster presentation as a second-class presentation, irrespective of how it is sold.
- Many authors with submissions relegated to a poster may very well withdraw, submit to a journal, and present as a WiPP (if at all). Other authors may decide not to attend the symposium if their paper is presented as a poster.
- Not giving students and postdocs the opportunity to present their work orally will help with neither their career development nor engaging them with the community.
- The already long time to publication will only get longer.
- How to differentiate between accepted poster presentations and WiPP?
- The lack of consultation on the topic despite the US representing about 25% of accepted papers.

The board made the following decisions:

- Some sections will send an email/poll to all their members to inform them of the proposed changes and ask for feedback.
- The 3 sections will write a joint letter to Bassam & José to inform them of the disagreements over the proposed changes. This letter will likely be circulated more broadly.
- Our representatives on the CI board have been notified and will voice our disagreements.

Yiguang left

2. Minutes approved

3. Treasurer's report

Review of assets and liabilities. All proceeds of the virtual 2021 US NCM meeting have been distributed. Discussion of \$10k liability on the balance sheet and whether it should be distributed to WSSCI. WSSCI will follow up on this. CSSCI will follow up on a \$4k discrepancy in their revenues.

Approval postponed.

4. 2023 US NCM

Donations: \$22k overall from TAMU, \$2k from 3 sponsors, \$6k from College Station

Total attendance: 410

Expenses: \$157,819. Revenue: \$233,400. Benefits: \$70k.

5. 2025 US NCM

Host section: ESSCI. Location: Boston. Local hosts : RTRC (Paul Papas), FM Global (Sergey Dorofeev), Anthony Marchese (URI), Sili Deng (MIT). Potential dates: mid March or May 2025. Potential use of dormitories in May to reduce cost.

6. Membership

7. Bylaws

Committee to revise the bylaws: Paul, David, Rob. Rotation to be cleaned up.

8. USSCI Bank account – postponed

9. Student/Postdoc support from USSCI

NSF money used to support US students to NCM. Non-US students used to be supported in the past, not in recent years. Discussion of possible support to postdoc.

Committee to review how we do student support: Bret, Mike, Waruna.

10. USSCI Website

Review of recent website updates and necessary changes.

11. Early Career Investigator Award

12. Summer school

Discussion of the Princeton summer school

13. Next meetings

We will discuss Symposium and Bylaws changes.

Meeting adjourned.