

## **Agenda for USSCI Board Meeting (August 5, 2021)**

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**Date:** 08/05/21

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. MDT

**Format:** Teleconference (via Zoom)

<https://zoom.us/j/91005713228>

### **1. Roll Call**

WSSCI: Guillaume Blanquard, Antony Marchese, Fletcher Miller, David Lignell, Erica Belmont

ESSCI: Peter Sunderland, Yiguang Ju, Perrine Pepiot, Paul Papas, Jackie O'Connor

CSSCI: Charles Baukal, Steve Son, Ya-Ting Liao, Waruna Kulatilaka, Robert Tranter

### **2. Approval of Minutes from Spring 2021 USSCI Board Meeting**

Minutes attached from May 27, 2021 Board Meeting are approved.

### **3. Feedback from Sections on Venue for 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. National Meeting**

At the conclusion of the May 27, 2021 meeting, USSCI Board Members were asked to obtain feedback from the board members of their sections on the venue for the 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. National Meeting. Each section was invited to share that feedback during the meeting:

CSSCI – Feeling is very strongly that CSSCI should host next meeting.

ESSCI – Chair of ESSCI got input from everybody on ESSCI board and feedback was unanimous. They understand that CSSCI was given verbal agreement and very much appreciate that the meeting was a success, but they feel that it would be good to move forward. Multiple universities had previously expressed interest in hosting the next meeting, and they would have to forego this opportunity for an additional two years, which delays what represents a great opportunity for early stage faculty career development. One recommendation is that TAMU could host in 6 years. Forgoing the normal rotation has consequences for the By Laws, which would need to be changed, a lengthy process. By Laws aside, there was a concern about setting a precedent whenever a conference cannot happen as expected.

WSSCI – WSSCI Board met on June 1, 2021 and spent a lot of time discussing the nuances: the discussions were lively. Finding the proper wording for the motions was delicate, which complicated the voting process. The vote from the full WSSCI Board was split evenly between awarding to ESSCI, awarding to CSSCI, and abstention. The USSCI Board members from WSSCI are similarly split. There is a strong desire from WSSCI representatives to come to a consensus, rather than having WSSCI votes represent the deciding votes.

### **4. Group Discussion on Venue for 13<sup>th</sup> U.S. National Meeting**

In the discussion that followed, many ideas and perspectives were expressed, including:

- By Laws should describe what to do if a meeting needs to go virtual in the future.
- There is still some amount of uncertainty the 2023 National Meeting to be in-person because of COVID (*Context: August 2021 saw a sharp increase in COVID spread due to the Delta variant*)
- Forgoing the normal rotation means that ESSCI-based students and junior faculty may miss an opportunity to host and gain visibility in the community due to the 2 years delay.
- This may be a great opportunity to embrace a joint organization of the National meeting, with equal splits of the proceeds, and based on national committees: program, site selection etc. This also may be a good opportunity to become more creative on what a national meeting could look like in the future.
- WSSCI expressed the desire to come to a consensus rather than moving ahead with a split vote. Several board members from all sections expressed that if consensus is not possible, a vote should be taken and everybody will move forward as colleagues for the benefit of the US section as a whole.
- A discussion was had on whether we should include any mention of officer rotation and revenue sharing in a vote, or to just focus the vote on the host of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and then address the outstanding issues depending on the outcome of the vote. Several iterations on possible voting language were discussed. A consensus emerged that if we put this to a vote that it should just focus on the venue. The consequences of the vote on the venue would then be tackled during subsequent Board meetings.
- A motion was put forth for the Chair to send out an email after the meeting with proposed language on the vote, and provide 24 hours for feedback from the Board on the language of the vote. The motion was passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. MDT.

### **Addendum to Minutes on Follow Up from 8/5/21 Meeting**

#### 8/6/21 through 8/18/21

Numerous suggestions were received from USSCI Board Members on the language and process for the vote. Several suggested that we include language that reminds folks of the consequences of the decision, not in a way as to bias the vote, but just so that would be clear to board members who may not have been in attendance for the entire meeting on 8/5/21. Secondly, several members requested that the vote be conducted anonymously. Thirdly, several have questioned whether some board members might have a Conflict of Interest (COI) as defined in our By Laws in Section V, Article 2.

The USSCI Chair sought feedback from numerous board members from multiple sections as to whether they believe that a COI as defined by the USSCI By Laws exists among any voters and it is not completely clear that a COI exists. Therefore, the USSCI Chair suggested that all voting members read the policy and decide if the COI policy applied to their situation as they prepared to cast their vote. If a board member believed that they have a COI, as per Section V, Article 3, they were instructed to contact the USSCI Chair to formally recuse themselves from the vote. As per the motion discussed and voted during the August 5 meeting, the vote would include an abstain option in the vote, which would not require a formal recusal.

Lastly, it was pointed out by the USSCI Chair that Section V, Article 4 of the By Laws require that all Board Members attest to having read the Conflict of Interest policy, and that to the USSCI Chair's knowledge this practice has not been employed in recent years. Accordingly,

the vote would also include a separate affirmation in the Qualtrics vote that states that each member has read the COI policy.

8/18/21

On 8/18/21 an email was sent to all USSCI Board Members explaining the above information and including the exact language that would be in the upcoming vote. An invitation was then sent out via Qualtrix to vote on the following:

### **Affirmation of Conflict of Interest Policy**

By checking this box, I attest that I have read the Conflict of Interest Policy in Section V of the By Laws.

### **Vote on Venue for 13th US National Combustion Meeting**

At the August 5, 2021 USSCI Board Meeting, a motion was passed to vote on a proposal for Texas A&M as the venue for the 13th National Combustion Meeting. As per the USSCI By Laws, if Texas A&M is selected as the venue for the 13th National Meeting then the CSCI would hold the USSCI Chair Position for an extra consecutive term (for a total of four years) and a change in By Laws would be necessary to limit the next USSCI Chair to a 2 year term. Please note that a change in USSCI By Laws is not being considered in the present vote and it cannot be guaranteed that such a change will occur. Similarly, a change in distribution of profit from the 12th National Meeting is not being considered in this vote and will also need to be addressed separately. A vote against this proposal would result in the status quo, which would result in the ESSCI hosting the 13th National Meeting at a location to be determined.

Texas A&M to host the 13th National Combustion Meeting

- For
- Against
- Abstain or Recusal\*

\* Please contact USSCI Chair Anthony Marchese if you would like to declare a COI and formally recuse yourself from this vote. A vote to abstain does not require that you contact the chair.

8/19/21 through 8/26/21

All 15 USSCI Board representatives casted their vote anonymously via Qualtrics on the venue for the next USSCI national meeting. The Qualtrics voting, which was set up by Board Member Eric Belmont, ensured that all representatives received separate emails that enabled each of us to cast 1 vote.

8/26/21

The USSCI Chair provided the outcome of the vote via email to the USSCI board members. The outcome was as follows.

Texas A&M to host the 13th National Combustion Meeting

- For – 9
- Against – 6
- Abstain or Recusal\* 0

The Qualtrics report showing the outcome of the vote was shared with all representatives. from the vote.

Also, as noted in the attached Qualtrics report, while all 15 representatives voted, three representatives failed to acknowledge that they have read the COI policy on the By Laws. Since the voting was conducted anonymously, it is not possible to identify those who neglected to affirm that they read the COI policy in the By Laws. Accordingly, it will be necessary for all board members to reaffirm that they have read the COI policy.

**August 5, 2021 minutes – Perrine Pepiot (Secretary), Anthony Marchese(Chair)**

**Addendum to August 5, 2021 minutes – Anthony Marchese (Chair)**