

Minutes of the March 21st USSCI Board meeting

Location: Texas A&M Conference Center and Hotel (13th USNCM); In person with on-line (ZOOM) option

Date: March 21, 2023

Time: 12:15 – 13:45 CST (Local Time)

Agenda for USSCI Board Meeting (March 21, 2023)

1. Roll Call

WSS	CSS	ESS
Fletcher Miller	Timothy Jacobs (Chair)	Perrine Pepiot
Guillaume Blanquart (Secretary)	Rob Tranter	Paul Papas (Vice-Chair)
Erica Belmont	Ya-ting Liao (Treasurer)	Yiguang Ju
Nicole Labbe	Steve Son	Jacqueline O'Connor
David Lignell	Waruna Kulatilaka	Peter Sunderland

Guests: Eric Petersen (TAMU), Jose Torero Cullen and Bassam Dally (40th ISC co-chairs), Michael Burke (incoming ESS member), Michael Mueller (incoming ESS member)

1. ISC Meeting

- Short 10-minute Presentation by guests Jose Torero Cullen and Bassam Dally on the 40th ISC in Milan (Q&A 5 min)

2. Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2023 USSCI Board Meeting

Minutes from 2/10/23 board meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report

Report by Ya-ting. (see attached file)

4. 2023 US National Combustion Meeting Discussion

- Update from Eric Petersen.

5. 2025 US National Combustion Meeting Discussion

- Presentation by Eastern States Section as host section for the 2025 14th USNCM.

6. Membership / Leadership Changes

- New members rolling in:
 - ESS
 - Michael Burke
 - Michael Mueller
 - CSS
 - TBD
 - TBD
 - WSS
 - TBD

- TBD
- Current members rolling out:
 - ESS
 - Peter Sunderland
 - Yiguang Ju
 - CSS
 - Tim Jacobs
 - WSS
 - TBD
 - TBD
 - New Leadership
 - Paul Papas (ESS) becoming Chair
 - WSS needs to identify the Vice-Chair
 - CSS needs to identify the Secretary

7. By Laws

- Need to revisit by-laws so that timing for new member and leadership changes are synchronized.

8. USS/CI Bank Account

- Guillaume Blanquart to organize a meeting with the four US-based treasurers and Amy and Renny at the CI Office.

9. USS/CI Student / Post-Doc Support

- Ad-hoc committee
 - How best to proceed?
- Want to ensure there is a discussion on supporting student travel for International Symposium.

10. Discussion on USS/CI Website

- Review and provide suggestions on modifying the USS/CI website (<https://www.ussci.org/>)
- Ya-Ting Liao

11. Early Career Investigator Award

- Feedback on the process / execution of the award selection process (Paul Papas)

12. Other Items

- 2023 Princeton-Combustion Institute Summer School on Combustion and the Environment, scheduled for June 25 to June 30, 2023
- Other items of discussion

13. Next Meeting

Attendees:

- ESSCI:
 - Paul Papas (chairing for Tim Jacobs),
 - Yiguang Ju,
 - Perrine Pepiot (online),
 - Mike Burke,
 - Michael Mueller,
 - Peter Sunderland

- WSSCI :
 - Guillaume Blanquart,
 - Erica Belmont,
 - David Lignell,
 - Brett Windom
- CSSCI:
 - Rob Tranter,
 - Waruna Kulatilaka,
 - Eric Petersen,
 - YaTing Liao (online)
- Renny Tassari (CI office)

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 the meeting.

2. Minutes from 2/10/23 board meeting were approved.

3. Treasurer’s report

The treasurer’s report was emailed in advance of the meeting. 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. CSCI will follow up on a \$4k discrepancy in their revenues.

Approval postponed.

4. 2023 US NCM

Updates from 13th US National Combustion Meeting were given. 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

Updates for the 14th US NCM were given. Host section: ESSCI. Location: Boston. Local hosts : RTRC (Paul Papas; host chair), FM Global (Sergey Dorofeev), Anthony Marchese (URI), Sili Deng (MIT).

Potential dates: mid-March or May 2025. Considering potential use of dormitories in May to reduce costs.

6. Membership/ Leadership changes

The leadership rotation as dictated in the by-laws will be for the current Vice-Chair (Paul Papas (ESSCI)) to become chair. WSSCI will need to select the Vice-Chair and CSSCI should select the next Secretary. New members rolling in and out are listed in the agenda above. For ESSCI, Peter Sunderland and Yiguang Ju will be rotating out and new members Michael Mueller (new ESSCI vice-chair) and Mike Burke will be rolling in. For CSSCI, Tim Jacobs will be rotating out. WSSCI and CSSCI will need to determine their new membership and complete rotations.

7. Bylaws

A new committee was formed to revise the bylaws comprised of Paul, David, Rob. The timing for the leadership rotations needs to be cleaned up.

8. USSCI Bank account – postponed

9. Student/Postdoc support from USSCI

NSF money has been used to support US student travel only. Non-US students used to be supported in the past, not in recent years. Discussion of possible support for postdocs.

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

Feedback on the process / execution of the award selection process (Paul Papas)

12. Summer school

Discussion of the Princeton summer school

13. Next meetings

We will discuss Symposium and Bylaws changes.

Meeting adjourned.