

Minutes of joint meeting and executive committee meeting, Toronto, May 26, 2009

Due to the relatively small attendance at the joint assembly, the two committees met together, 8 members were present. There was mostly an exchange of information on the following topics:

1. The Future Focus Task Force (FFTF) exercise to change the AGU governance structure

Since the San Francisco meeting, the FFTF has proposed a new governance model. In the new model, a 12- 15 member board of directors will be created parallel to council which in turn will be considerably expanded notably to include Focus Group representatives. The board will have financial responsibility for the Union, the council will set the scientific direction, priorities. The plan is to have the basic new structure in place in about a year. The new structure (which presumably was since approved in its basics by council on May 27th) will work with the new (interim) director Robert T. Van Hook.

2. Organizing sessions for the fall meeting

Scientific sessions are the main mechanism for increasing the profile of NG within the union. Don Turcotte announced that he has already submitted a session proposal, Lucas Goering, Brad Murray are planning something on pattern formation, and proposals to do with space plasmas and hydrology are also in the works. The deadline is June 12th; the chair announced his intention to pro-actively solicit proposals.

3. Possible EOS articles on NG

Members are encouraged to submit papers on NG and NG activities to the NG EOS rep John Rundle. It was announced that the workshop on "Geocomplexity" (following the assembly) would write a piece.

4. Liaison with other sections

We are still searching for volunteers for liaison with other sections, focus groups. Perhaps the most pressing need in this regard is with respect to newly created focus group on Natural Hazards (chair: Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Geophysical Institute, University of Karlsruhe, Germany). Any suggestions/ volunteers, please contact the chair.

5. Recent developments at the EGU/AGU NPG journal

In a role as NG representative, the chair attended the recent editorial meeting of the EGU/AGU NPG (at the EGU meeting, April). Editor in chief Bruce Malamud is stepping down and Roger Grimshaw is replacing him. Perhaps of greater import was the decision to restructure the journal with 5 essentially independent associate editors each responsible for a wide NG scientific theme. The intention is for the total number of editors to be greatly expanded with each associate editor assembling a team of editors to help.

6. NG Website

The focus group website has been updated, including the list of the new committees and members. Any suggestions, or information about events, jobs etc. should be sent to the secretary, James Wanliss (jawanliss@presby.edu).

-Shaun Lovejoy, chair
(modified 6/8/2009 by J. Wanliss)