

Minutes of the Nonlinear Geophysics Focus Group Executive Committee

San Francisco, CA, 18 December 2008

1. Sean Lovejoy called the meeting to order.

2a. Surja Sharma gave a report for the activities of the past year. First, it was reported that a new executive team has been selected. Surja introduced Irina Rypina, winner of the inaugural Turcotte Award. The primary affiliate membership in NG has increased from 150 in 2004 to 600 in the year 2008. Unfortunately, members from Asian countries, particularly China, are particularly sparse. Wherever possible, the committee should make efforts to increase secondary affiliations, as these count for something in the overall AGU membership accounting.

2b. Surja reported on the activities of an AGU Future Focus Task force. They are re-evaluating means for effective AGU governance, and may provide a vehicle for improving the visibility of the NG focus Group among the AGU membership.

3a. Sean Lovejoy said that 2008 submissions to the Fall meeting were slightly lower than 2007, and unchanged since 2005. In 2008 the fall AGU featured 0.8% NG abstracts. This is somewhat different from far meetings where Nonlinear abstracts are 3.9% of the total submissions for 2006-2008. The difference might be attributed to the higher relative level of support European nonlinear researchers enjoy compared to the United States of America. In Europe there exists a dedicated funding source for nonlinear science, and Nick Watkins mentioned that in Europe there is also a strong connection with the meteorology community.

3b. Sean raised the possibility of pursuing connections with the community involved with geohazards. Bruce Malamud felt the addition of Geohazards to the NG name might come off as grandiose to other focus groups, given that hazards feature prominently among all existing focus groups. Brenda Weaver mentioned that a Geohazards group already exists. The committee was in consensus regarding establishing contacts with this group, and in suggesting joint sessions.

In order to increase the number of Sessions Vijay Gupta suggested various themes. For example, NG in Atmospheres, NG in hydrology, etc.

4. An idea was advanced to suggest an NG representative for Geophysical Research Letters. James Wanliss mentioned the increase in nonlinear sessions at the Asia Oceania Geosciences Symposium (AOGS) from 2007 to 2008. He convened a session at the 2008 meeting. Vijay Dimri encouraged members to attend the meeting of the Indian Geophysical Union. These efforts dovetail nicely with the goal of increasing NG membership among Asian nations.