

Spring 2020 IRIS Board of Directors Meeting
April 15-16, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Attendees.

Board Members: R. Aster (Chair), C. Ammon, J. Caplan-Auerbach, S. Hansen, S. Kruse, B. Schmandt, V. Schulte-Pelkum, S. Schwartz, C. Thurber

IRIS Staff and Standing Committee chairs: R. Detrick (President), J. Carter, C. Shin, J. Taber, R. Woodward (on 1st day also G. Abers, K. Aderhold, K. Anderson, R. Busby, C. Dalton, K. Ellins, A. Frassetto, K. Hafner, S. van der Lee, M. Long, J. Sweet, P. Winberry)

AGENDA

Wednesday, April 15th (Board, SMT, PM and SC chairs)

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| 13:00 | Welcome – Chair’s and President’s remarks |
| 13:05-13:10 | Status of Action Items from last BoD meeting (<i>Detrick</i>)
Approval of the Consent Agenda |
| 13:10-14:40 | Status Reports from Directors and SC Chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IS (<i>Woodward, Dalton, Magnani, Winberry, Bennington</i>) – 60 min• DS (<i>Carter, van der Lee</i>) – 30 min |
| 14:40-14:55 | <i>Break</i> |
| 14:55-15:40 | Status reports from Directors and SC Chairs (con’t) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EPO (<i>Taber, Ellins</i>) – 30 min• IDSC (<i>Frassetto, Long</i>) – 15 min |
| 15:45 -16:30 | Funding Agency Calls <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NSF (<i>Maggie Benoit, Mike Jackson</i>) - 30 min• USGS (<i>Cecily Wolfe</i>) – 15 min |
| 16:30-16:45 | <i>Break</i> |
| 16:45-17:00 | CoCom Report (<i>Thurber</i>) |
| 17:00-18:00 | Management and Program Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of Data Policy for Data from Permanent Seismic Networks (<i>Carter</i>)• Endorsement of Seismic Source Facility Funding Model (<i>Woodward/Anderson</i>)• Replacement of Sarah Kruse on PASC (<i>Anderson</i>)• Approval of 2021 IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lecturers (<i>Ellins</i>)• Fall Strategic Planning Meeting |

Thursday, April 16th (Board and SMT only)

- 13:00 BoD reconvenes
- 13:00-13:20 SAGE-II Yr 3 Annual Plan and Budget (*Detrick*)
- 13:20-14:15 Budget and Finance Committee Report (*Shin*)
- IRS Form 990
 - Auditor Selection
- 14:15-14:30 *Break*
- 14:30-14:45 Community Workshop Planning
- 2020 GAGE-SAGE Workshop (*Taber*)
 - 2021 or 2022 SAGE-GAGE Workshop Venues
- 14:45-16:00 Status and Discussion of Merger Negotiations with UNAVCO (*Aster/Detrick*)
- 16:00-16:45 Future Planning
- NRC CORES study and White Papers (*Detrick*)
 - Fall Strategic Planning Retreat (*Aster*)
 - Board Nomination Committee membership (*Aster*)
 - Other issues
- 16:45-17:00 *Break*
- 17:00-18:00 Board Executive Session (*Board + President*)
- Presidential Leadership Transition
 - Upcoming Board meetings (August, November)
 - Nominations for NSF Advisory Boards
 - Other issues

Adjourn

MINUTES

Meeting called to order by Board Chair Rick Aster about 13:00 pm on April 15th, 2020.

1. Consent Agenda

Vote: The Board unanimously approved the following motion (Schwartz moves; Schulte-Pelkum seconds): *“The Board approves the following Consent Agenda items as presented at the virtual Board meeting on February 3rd, 2020 and subsequently reviewed and approved by the Board by email:”*

- February 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
- IRIS Emeritus Policy
- Simpson Fund RFP
- SAGE-II Yr 3 Program Budget Targets

2. Status Reports from Directors and Standing Committee Chairs

2.1 Instrumentation Services (*Bob Woodward*)

- Woodward summarized the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on SAGE Instrument Services. Most IS employees are now teleworking from home and > 20 PASSCAL field experiments (both new experiments and instrument recoveries) planned for 2020 have already been postponed or canceled. GSN station servicing/upgrades have also been suspended due to travel restrictions. TA station removal in Alaska planned for this summer has been suspended at least until August; these stations will be removed in 2021. Data from the TA network will continue to be recorded through May 1, 2021 (it had been slated to end in May 2020).
- Woodward provided a brief overview of the status of different IS programs: GSN, PASSCAL, PASSCAL MT, Polar, TA, Frontier activities as well as GLISN, central Asia/Caucasus, and GEOICE.
- Standing Committee chairs Dalton (GSN) and Magnani (PASSCAL) described their committee's work, especially their strategic planning efforts and plans to solicit white papers in response to the NSF Dear Colleague Letter (DCL). Winberry, co-chair of the PNSC, said it hasn't met since last Fall. Mike Jackson (NSF) suggested they hold a workshop about future polar goals/plans but this has been delayed with COVID-19. Winberry said they may solicit community feedback to get started with this effort.

2.2 Data Services (*Jerry Carter*)

- Carter provided an update on SAGE Data Services and the impact of the pandemic on DS operations. DS has been operating normally with 100% of DS staff teleworking from home. The number of visits to the DMC website has not declined, data shipments have remained steady, and the demand for data products has actually increased.
- DS is working with UNAVCO to develop a Common Cloud Platform project to move the SAGE and GAGE archives into the cloud and integrate their data services. They will be seeking supplemental funding from NSF for this project.
- Carter reviewed DS system performance, described potential shared infrastructure with UNAVCO, announced that a Mars event catalog is now available, and reported the release of a Earth Model Collaboration web service interface. He noted that full SEED has been retired.
- Standing Committee Chair van der Lee summarized community priorities for DS, outlining five key goals: (1) retain priorities for data ingestion, archiving, quality assurance, data distribution; (2) maintain community governance; (3) retain staff-domain knowledge/experience; (4) deliver a suite of data quality metrics; and (5) develop an integrated data archive that is prepared for new research trends and changes.
- Van der Lee noted plans for a virtual workshop for early-career researchers will be held April 23-24 to draft white papers in response to the NSF DCL. Van der Lee will pull together multiple perspectives (IRIS DS, PIs, workforce, international) in another white paper; the SAC developer's group is also preparing a DCL white paper.

2.3 Education and Public Outreach (*John Taber*)

- Taber provided an overview of EPO activities and COVID-19 impacts. The IRIS Summer Internship Program has been canceled for 2020; unspent funds will be carried over to 2021 and the REU program will support a larger number of students next year. Various

national meetings (e.g. NSTA, SSA, USA Science and Engineering Festival) have been cancelled due to COVID-19. EPO is seeing higher attendance/participation in webinars during the pandemic, as well as increased use of on-line teaching resources – especially videos/animations. There also has been a huge increase in social media usage over the last several months.

- The new SAGE Diversity Initiative (IGUaNA) is on-track; 3 two-week modules are being developed on different geophysical methods as well as a module on geophysics careers. EPO is contributing E&O materials to ShakeAlert
- Standing Committee Chair Ellins presented the proposed 2021 IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lecturers. They are proposing three lecturers in 2021 and are trying to attract younger and more diverse audiences and be responsive to different delivery formats.
- The EPO Standing Committee identified the following priorities: (1) retain resource capabilities for existing audiences; (2) integrate IRIS-UNAVCO EPO strengths and content areas; (3) expand the geoscience workforce (incl. diversity); (4) expand science communication; (5) provide support for consortium members; and (6) develop evaluation plan.

2.4 International Development in Seismology (Maureen Long)

- Committee Chair Long reported the committee had a virtual meeting in October 2019. They are working on a proposal for the Simpson Fund for international summer internships. They are also working on a seismology-oriented workshop in Italy (planning postponed with COVID-19) and are coordinating with SZ4D international partners. The Board discussed inviting UNAVCO again to participate in the IDSC.

Action Item (2004-01) – Detrick will contact the UNAVCO President and invite UNAVCO to participate in the IDSC.

3. Meeting with NSF and USGS

The Board had a 45-minute call with Maggie Benoit and Mike Jackson from NSF and Cecily Wolfe from USGS.

Topics discussed with NSF included: personnel changes at NSF; COVID-19 impacts on PASSCAL and TA field programs, GSN station servicing, and the 2020/2021 Antarctic field season, as well as conferences such as the GAGE-SAGE Community Workshop. Also discussed was the timeline for AON decisions regarding adoption of Alaska TA stations and the status of our “shovel-ready” infrastructure needs “wish list” for GSN and PASSCAL in the event there is COVID-related stimulus funding. NSF referred us to two sites on the NSF website for COVID-related information:

https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/coronavirus/
https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300302&org=OPP

Action Item (2004-02) – IRIS will circulate these URLs to the IRIS community via the IRIS bulkmail listserv.

Topics discussed with USGS included: the effect of COVID-19 on ASL/GSN operations and USGS response to major earthquakes or volcanic eruptions. USGS was also asked about the status of the SZ4D initiative.

4. CoCom Report

CoCom had a virtual meeting on March 23rd. Thurber had each Standing Committee chair summarize any new informational details from their group (not brought up earlier in the meeting) and any decisional issues that the BoD needs to discuss.

Informational Items

- PASSCAL – Texans are no longer in demand so on August 1, 2020 PASSCAL will no longer commit to support Texans in experiments. At an appropriate time (after the COVID crisis) the PASC will send a bulk email to the IRIS community about inappropriate handling of PASSCAL equipment.
- TA – encourages the nomination of members of the IRIS community for membership on NSF Advisory Committees
- Frontier – nodes being used for much more than Texans had been used for in the past. Trying to continue to grow the node pool for wavefield (both active and passive) experiments

Decisional Items

- BoD is asked to approve a revised Data Acceptance Policy for Permanent Seismic Networks
- BoD is asked to endorse a new seismic source facility funding model
- BoD is asked to approve the proposed 2021 IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lecturers
- BoD is asked to approve a replacement for Sarah Kruse on PASC (ideally with someone with near-surface geophysics expertise)

5. Management and Program Guidance

- Revised Data Acceptance Policy for Permanent Seismic Networks: After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the following motion:

Motion (Schmandt moves; Ammon seconds): *“The Board approves the revised Data Acceptance Policy for Permanent Seismic Networks”.*

- Seismic source funding model: This change is expected to require about \$100–200K/yr in supplemental funding to the SAGE award in the last two years of the CA. Detrick to discuss with NSF. Provided there are no budget surprises or cap issues, the Board consensus was this could move ahead.
- Replacement for Kruse on PASC – The Board unanimously approved the following motion:

Motion (Schwartz moves; Schmandt seconds): *“The Board approves Andy Parsekian to replace Sarah Kruse on the PASC ; alternate is Xavier Comas”*

- Approval of 2021 IRIS/SSA lecturers: The Board unanimously approved the following motion:

Motion (Ammon moves; Hansen seconds): *“The Board approves Ben Holtzman, Guoqing Lin and William Wilcock as the 2021 IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lecturers”*

- Fall strategic planning meeting: An in-person meeting will be held early this Fall to discuss priorities for an integrated seismo-geodetic facility post-2023 as well as tasks that we want to make progress on during SAGE-II. UNAVCO has started a similar exercise; the two groups should meet at some point to compare/discuss as we prepare for the recompetition solicitation.
- Portfolio Review Committee: NSF is assembling an “Portfolio Review Committee” (a subcommittee of AC-GEO) which will focus on geophysical facilities. This committee, along with the DCL “white papers” and the CORES report, will likely strongly influence the recompetition solicitation that will be issued by NSF next year.

Action Item (2004-03) – Detrick will ask UNAVCO for a copy of their revised strategic plan for use in our Fall strategic planning meeting.

Action Item (2004-04) – Aster will send an email to several senior members of our community (e.g. Lay, Meltzer, Beck, Park) asking them to self-nominate to serve on the AC-GEO.

DAY 2 of Meeting

6. SAGE-II Yr. 3 Annual Plan and Budget

At its February meeting the Board provided the Standing Committees with budget targets for SAGE-II Yr. 3. The Board was briefed on the budgets subsequently prepared by each program and compared with prior year budgets. The one significant change from the original budget targets is that NSF directed IRIS to reprogram some money originally planned for MT instrument acquisition to acquire more nodes instead. After the Board meeting, we learned from NSF that they want to fund the Yr 3 budget for the EAR-CSA in two equal increments (as was done last year).

Motion (Thurber moves; Schulte-Pelkum seconds): *“The Board unanimously approves the proposed SAGE-II Yr 3 Annual Plan and Budget”.*

Action Item (1902-05) – IRIS will submit a SAGE-II Yr 3 Annual Plan and Budget to NSF by May 1, 2020.

7. Budget and Finance Committee Report

- The Budget and Finance (B&F) Committee met on March 31, mostly to discuss the FY19 IRS Form 990 submission and the selection of a new auditor.
- The program services description on the FY19 Form 990 was changed compared to prior years; most other aspects of the Form 990 are similar to prior years. The Board approved by consensus the submission of the FY19 IRS Form 990.
- Aronson LLC has been IRIS’ auditor over last 5 years; after reviewing bids from them and competitors, the pre-selection team and the B&F Committee recommends Calibre CPA Group be hired to serve as IRIS’ auditor for the next 5 years.

Motion (Schwartz moves; Hansen seconds): *“The Board unanimously approves the selection of the Calibre CPA Group as IRIS’ auditor for the next 5 years”.*

8. GAGE-SAGE Community Workshop Planning

- The GAGE-SAGE Community Workshop is currently scheduled for August 2020 in Breckenridge, CO. In light of the coronavirus pandemic, and associated uncertainties in travel and meeting restrictions, the Organizing Committee has recommended postponing the workshop and rescheduling it for August 2021. Student scholarship applications and registration have been delayed for now; July 10 is the final deadline for finalizing the meeting contract with the hotel, so we need to make a decision fairly soon. NSF said this decision is up to IRIS and UNAVCO.
- The Board agreed that an in-person meeting this August is probably not feasible and favored postponing the meeting until 2021. However, the Board noted some elements of the workshop could be held virtually (e.g. SiGs). Because of the importance of this meeting for early career investigators, the Board also recommended holding some events virtually this August (e.g. talks by ECI, a virtual happy hour for ECI).
- If the 2020 workshop is postponed until next year, the next IRIS-organized workshop will not be until 2022. The Board discussed potential venues for that workshop and favored Pittsburgh or Minneapolis.

Action Item (2004-05) – Detrick will discuss with UNAVCO the IRIS Board’s recommendation that the workshop be postponed until 2021, but that some workshop activities be held virtually this August.

9. Status of Merger Discussions with UNAVCO

- The status of Negotiation Committee discussions was summarized for the Board and SMT. The Negotiation Committee has agreed on mission and vision statements for the new merged organization as well as bylaws, size/composition of the BoD, officers, standing committees, and a high-level management structure. A financial due diligence study has been completed of both organizations along with a comparison of benefits and personnel policies. The effective date to implement the merger is October 2023.
- The Negotiation Committee agreed that legally the most cost effective and efficient merger structure is for UNAVCO to dissolve and be “absorbed” by IRIS; the new organization will be incorporated in Delaware. Although IRIS will legally be the surviving corporation, it will have a new name, new by-laws, a new Board of Directors and for all intents and purposes will be a new corporation.
- The Negotiation Committee discussed crowd-sourcing a new name and logo; IRIS may adopt this new name even before a new proposal is submitted.
- RFIs/RFPs will be used to determine location(s) for headquarters, instrument facilities, satellite offices, etc. A joint IRIS-UNAVCO committee will draft the RFI. IRIS members of the RFI committee will be Woodward, Ammon, and Schmandt
- The next Negotiation Committee meeting scheduled for June 16-17 (via video conference)
- A joint IRIS-UNAVCO board meeting is still expected to be held in August (perhaps during the same timeframe when GAGE-SAGE meeting would have been held). Will wait on scheduling (virtual or in-person), but want to move on this soon to get the terms of a merger officially approved by both Boards.

10. Future Planning

- Strategic planning: A strategic planning meeting of the BoD and CoCom will be held this Fall (September?) to review IRIS' current strategic plan and identify priorities and brainstorm new ideas in preparation for the recompetition solicitation expected to be issued by NSF in about a year.
 - The white papers the community submits to NSF in response to the DCL could be helpful in informing our planning discussions if people are willing to share them with us. A request could be made prior to the Fall strategic planning meeting to share these white papers with the Board and CoCom
- BoD Nomination Committee membership: Thurber volunteered to chair the committee, and Doug Wiens (last year's NomCom chair) also will be a member. Other suggested members: Maureen Long, Dianne Roman, Amanda Thomas. The Nomination Committee will assemble a slate of candidates in August/September.

11. Board Executive Session

- An offer has been officially made (and accepted) for the IRIS President. A public announcement will be made in next week or so
- Transition/hand-off will occur July; Detrick will officially retire on September 1, 2020
- Detrick volunteered to continue to help move the merger forward, even after his retirement
- Fall IRIS BoD meeting on November 9-10 (Madison, WI or Washington DC)

Meeting adjourned by Board Chair Rick Aster about 6:00 pm on April 16th, 2020.