

**AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group**  
**Executive Committee (EC) Business Meeting**  
**Minutes**

Friday, 18 December 2009, 12:30–1:30 PM  
Room 222, Moscone Center  
San Francisco, California

**Call to order at 12:30**

**Attendance:**

Susan Cutter (Vice Chair), Ilya Zaliapin (Secretary), Harsh Gupta (Member), Yev Kontar (Member), Bruce Malamud (Member), and Richard Murnane (Member). **Guests:** Tim Grove (AGU President), Carol Finn (AGU Secretary General), Corne Kreemer (AGU Program Committee representative), Vladimir Kossobokov (Vice Chair, IUGG Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability), Ramesh Singh (Vice Chair, IUGG Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability), Robert Dahlgren (PhD student, San Jose State U)

Apologies for absence were received from: Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Chair), Roger Pielke Sr (Member), and Vasily Titov (Member).

**Note taker:** Ilya Zaliapin

**AGENDA TOPICS**

1. Introduction of the meeting participants	2 min
2. Approval of Agenda	1 min
The agenda was approved	
3. Acceptance of Minutes of the 2009 (Toronto) Business Meeting	1 min
The Minutes were accepted by electronic communication (unanimously).	
4. Presentation by the AGU representatives	20 min
A group of AGU representatives attended all focus group business meetings during the Fall 2009 AGU meeting. AGU President Tim Grove addressed group self-governance and interaction with other AGU bodies; he strongly encouraged student participation in the FG activities. AGU Secretary General Carol Finn discussed the new model of AGU governance during 2010-2012 and 2012-2014, as well as group financial report/audit system. AGU representatives answered questions from meeting participants.	
5. Establishing the Group Advisory Board	5 min

The EC decided to establish an Advisory Board to the NH FG comprised of AGU Sections representatives with expertise in NH and a few experts from other bodies. The Terms of References of the Advisory Board are as follows.

- The purpose of the Advisory Board is to evaluate the activity of the Focus Group and elaborate the vision of the group for future activities.
- The Advisory Board shall:
  1. advise on strategy in natural hazards research development and prepare a biennial report on the strategic plans for the Focus Group;
  2. provide guidance and constructive criticism to help chartering the Group's activities;
  3. provide guidance and facilitate communication with other AGU sections and focus groups;
  4. advise on cooperation between AGU and other bodies dealing with natural hazards; and
  5. advise on new awards and honors in recognition of natural hazards research and mitigation of disaster risks.
- The Advisory Board will be appointed by the Focus Group Chair and should be composed of AGU Sections representatives (up to 2 representatives). The Vice-Chair of the AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group should serve as Chair of the Advisory Board. Representatives of external institutions with expertise in natural hazards (not more than 3 representatives) can be invited to join the Advisory Board by the Chair of the Board.
- Decisions of the Board shall be taken by a simple absolute majority. If a tie should occur in a Board vote, the decision shall rest with the Chair. A simple majority is determined by the proportion of affirmative votes to the sum of votes (affirmative, negative, abstention), provided that the total number of members voting (affirmative, negative, abstention) is not less than one third of the total membership of the Board.
- Term of office of the Advisory Board members shall be 2 years, but may be extended for a further period of not more than 2 years. Replacement of members shall be in a staggered manner in order to ensure efficient and continuous functioning of the Board.
- The Board shall submit a report to the focus group's Secretary by 1 December annually.

<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Form the Advisory Board	Alik Ismail-Zadeh
6. NH sessions at the 2010 AGU "The meeting of the Americas" (August 8-13, 2010, Iguassu Falls, Brazil)	5 min
<p>All group members are encouraged to solicit sessions related to NH and nominate candidates for the Program Committee. Yev Kontar agreed to serve for the Program Committee of the Joint meeting.</p>	
7. Natural Hazards Focus Group Award for Graduate Research	5 min

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The first FG Graduate Research Award ceremony and reception took place during the Fall 2009 AGU meeting under generous sponsorship of Munich Re.

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<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>
Solicit nominees for the 2010 GR Award Announce the 2010 Award on group web and in press	All EC members Ilya Zaliapin

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8. The Gilbert F. White Medal/Lecture 10 min

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A proposal for the Gilbert F. White medal/Lecture submitted by Susan Cutter has been reviewed by the meeting participants. The proposal was approved and recommended for submission to the AGU Committee on Honors and Recognitions.

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<b>Action items</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>
Submit the proposal to the AGU Committee on Honors and Recognitions	Alik Ismail_Zadeh

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9. Nomination to AGU Fellowship 5 min

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The meeting participants discussed the group contribution to nomination of AGU Fellows; it has been stressed that the nominations must mainly come from and supported by the scientific community rather than administrative units (e.g. focus groups). The role of the FG is to facilitate the search and ensure recognition of the best candidates.

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10. ICSU project proposal “Extreme Natural Hazards and Societal Implications” 5 min

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AGU and IUGG together with several international partners submitted a proposal to the International Council for Science (ICSU) to support research meetings in 2010-2011.

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11. Other topics 1 min

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At a request of Dr. Roger Pielke, the group members are asked to solicit names of colleagues who are experts on the resources: food, water, energy, ecosystem function and human health. Dr. Roger Pielke has been appointed as a Chief Editor of a 5 volume set on these resources. For more details please visit

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2009/10/27/further-comments-on-the-vulnerability-perspective/>

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**Adjournment 13:30**