

UAC Core Committee Monthly

April 22, 2025

11:30 am – 12:30 pm EDT

Agenda: See attachment 1

Attendees: See attachment 2

UAC questions for CASIS: See attachment 3

M. Gittleman opened the meeting by welcoming the CASIS leadership that attended and asked each Chair to introduce themselves at the beginning of their report.

UAC chair report by Mark Gittleman

Gittleman submitted his op-ed titled, ***The U.S. is Risking its Economic and Defense Leadership in Low Earth Orbit***, to the Wall Street Journal, but it was not published. He submitted the op-ed to the Washington Post on April 22nd. If not published by the Post, he plans on submitting to Space News. He thanked NASA and CASIS for their help.

Gittleman stated that he discussed the purpose of the UAC public meeting at ISSRDC with CASIS/Ray Lugo. In summary, the purpose aligns with the function of the UAC as stated in the UAC Charter – serve as an advocacy group for the ISSNL user community and advisory body to the CASIS CEO. Based on that discussion, Gittleman suggested the UAC use the public meeting to again ask questions of the user community -- similar to what was done last year.

Action: M. Gittleman to send purpose of UAC public meeting at ISSRDC to the UAC chairs. (done)

Gittleman stated that he had not yet received input from UAC chairs on potential panels for ISSRDC, so he mentioned that CASIS/Laurie Provin has plans for two panels that would be of interest to the user community. One panel will focus on the urgent need for support to the CSP community so they can continue to support the science and R&D communities. The second panel will focus on the economics of the activities on the ISS. The UAC can help shape those discussions.

(NOTE from Gittleman: my statement about not receiving input regarding ISSRDC panels was wrong. The Applied R&D subcommittee submitted ideas in an email on April 16. My apologies).

Gittleman had a discussion with Lugo about use of the CASIS PI/user database to connect with the broader user community about helping to advocate for the importance of the ISS to

stakeholders. While reluctant to provide the user data directly to the UAC, Lugo indicated that CASIS would be willing to send out a message to users on behalf of the UAC.

Action: Gittleman to draft initial communication for emailing to the PI/User community for review and comment by subcommittee chairs. Due by 5/6/25

Gittleman also shared that the Boeing-led ISS advocacy group is planning visits to Congress in June, and he is sharing UAC messaging information with that group. He also suggested any case studies with relevant information would be great to share with other like-minded advocacy groups and that he would serve as a conduit to get any information to them.

Action: UAC subcommittee chairs to share relevant case studies with the UAC Core Committee when available.

UAC Tech Dev subcommittee chair report by Henry Hanson

Hanson shared that Ryan Elliott, In Orbit Aerospace Inc, has resigned from the subcommittee and Jason Hoffman-Bice, Fourier LLC, has been added as a new member. The addition of a non-space company like Fourier to the team will help diversify the team's views on technology development and utilization for earth-based applications.

Each member is developing case studies utilizing their own expertise and field of study initially for internal discussions but eventually to demonstrate the value of LEO for technology development. Hanson stated he would share the cases studies with the larger user community in the near future.

Hanson mentioned they are continuing their efforts to develop knowledge transfer concepts, including the development of a list of questions for users following the completion of their projects. Hanson stated he would welcome the opportunity to utilize college students to help gather and compile the answers to the final list of questions once the project gets to that point.

UAC Education subcommittee chair report by Illana Raia

Raia stated that knowledge transfer is of great interest to educators and offered to help with or add questions to the Tech Dev effort.

Raia noted that the seven subcommittee members and two students include educators and companies in the education industry. The Education team is collecting case studies on the return on investment (ROI) of education -- experiments, lessons, role models -- that students and educators value most from the ISSNL information and experience.

In preparation for the ISSRDC, Raia stated the team is interested in collecting questions from students prior to the conference so the UAC can be prepared to address the most relevant questions.

UAC Science subcommittee chair report by Ron Joslin

Joslin stated the next subcommittee meeting is May 6th. NASA has accepted their invitation to attend that meeting and share their latest planning efforts.

UAC CSP subcommittee chair report by Rich Boling

Boling stated that the subcommittee is meeting later in the day. Boling also stated that the CSP members were very pleased with the ***UAC project plan for 2025*** that was drafted by the UAC Chair/Gittleman.

Boling stated that the subcommittee is interested in the status of ISSNL/NASA efforts to remove underutilized, non-functioning hardware from the ISS. CASIS/Robbie Hampton shared that he has been getting the information he needs to help with those activities, but that NASA and the international partners have some larger payloads arriving on the ISS soon that will utilize much of the available footprint. Negotiations for available space (up mass, down mass and on the ISS) are a continuous activity.

Boling stated that the CSP community has recurring discussions about what comes after the ISS and concerns about potential budget cuts and the impacts to their line of work.

Gittleman commented that CASIS's ability to shape the future is limited but that the UAC and the user community has no limits on how they can help shape that future. He suggested that if organizations are waiting passively for the future, they probably will not like the results.

CASIS/Francisco Cordova also suggested that while many organizations have existing lobbying efforts, this is a time where those efforts need to work together given the common interests of additional flights, allocations, etc.

Boling mentioned that many of the CSP companies are also members of the Commercial Space Federation (CSF) and as such they speak with one voice via the CSF.

Action: R. Boling to look at current CSF messaging to see if any CSPs that are non-CSF members may want to contribute to that messaging.

CASIS/Laurie Provin suggested that the UAC use a multi-prong approach with consistent messaging. Visiting Congress collectively carries more weight than individual visits.

Boling asked about the potential early deorbiting of ISS as suggested by DOGE. Cordova stated that NASA has determined that an early deorbit of the ISS is not feasible, however, budget cuts to the ISS program could have significant impacts.

Cordova stated that CASIS has their quarterly meeting with the ISS program on April 24th and cargo mission allocations and budgets will certainly be topics of discussion.

Action: R. Boling to discuss having the CSP community develop a white paper addressing the needs of the CSP community at the CSP monthly meeting this afternoon.

Gittleman stated that the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership (BAHEP) is conducting advocacy visits with Congress in May and the Boeing-led effort is visiting Congress in June. He suggested arming both groups with the latest UAC messaging efforts.

Action: Gittleman to provide BAHEP and Boeing with any available UAC messages or relevant products (on-going through June).

UAC Applied R&D subcommittee report by Nicole Wagner

Wagner stated that Christian Maender, Barrios Technology, is slated to join the team soon.

Wagner also mentioned some potential committees or panels for consideration at the ISSRDC.

Their next subcommittee meeting is April 28th

CASIS was provided a list of questions from the UAC in advance of the meeting and allotted 30 minutes during the meeting to answer those questions. See a summary of the responses/dialogue below:

Cordova thanked the UAC for the questions and encouraged this type of dialogue between CASIS and the UAC. He again stated that CASIS was meeting with NASA on April 24th and that he would share relevant information from that meeting in the coming weeks.

He shared that the impact from the delay of the NG-22 mission is significant and without additional cargo flights, there is no real way to mitigate the impact. He stated that additional budget cuts could have an impact and would share some numbers associated with those potential impacts and how CASIS is prioritizing planning for future solicitations soon after the meeting with NASA later this week.

Boling asked how many additional cargo flights would be needed to return to a more robust ISSNL allotment and both Gittleman and Cordova suggested 2 additional flights per year would be needed.

Gittleman asked if Congress understood the existential impact to the future of commercial space if more cargo missions are not funded. Provin stated that the Congress and Administration are focused on economics and national security and any funding requests should ensure their messaging is tied to one or both of those topics. Provin also stated that the draft authorization bill increases CLD funding by several hundred million and that money would need to come from somewhere. **Action: L. Provin to send the draft authorization bill to the UAC Chairs.**

Raia mentioned the \$2.4B money raised by startups after flight as a strong economic indicator in support of the ISSNL. Gittleman also mention the manufacturing retinas in space was another strong message to include in any justification for additional cargo flights. Cordova stated that CASIS would assist with any data CASIS has that would help communicate the importance of the ISS and additional funding requests.

Hampton stated that transition planning to future CLDs is very dependent on which CLDs are awarded contracts. He also stated that a whitepaper associated with the nominated NASA Administrator, Jared Isaacman, could provide some insight on the direction of the ISS and CLD efforts.

Since the meeting time was ending before CASIS could address all of the questions, Cordova stated that CASIS would provide written answers to any remaining questions.

The next UAC Core team meeting May 27th at 11:30 EDT.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Mark Gittleman, UAC Chair

Attachment 1

UAC Chairs Agenda
04/22/2025

Topic	Who	Time (Minutes)
Old Business 1. Chair's report & Action Item Review	Mark G	5
New Business 1. Subcommittee Chair Reports (<5 minutes each) 2. Q&A with CASIS Leadership	Discussion All	25 25
Recap Today's Action Items Deferred Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss draft UAC Project Charter 2025. The objective is to develop a consensus on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether or not a charter like this is worth doing• If yes, then discuss the process for finalizing it• Kickoff planning for ISSRDC UAC Public meeting July 28	Mark R	5
Adjourn		60

Attachment 2

Attendees:

Mark Gittleman	UAC Chair
Rich Boling	CSP subcommittee Chair
Henry Hanson	Tec Dev subcommittee Chair
Ron Joslin	Science subcommittee Chair
Illana Raia	STEM Education & Workforce subcommittee Chair
Nicole Wagner	Applied R&D subcommittee Chair
Francisco Cordova	CASIS Chief Operating Officer
Robbie Hampton	CASIS Director of Operations
Laurie Provin	CASIS Director, Strategic Engagement & STEM Programs
Mark Ruether	CASIS Observer

Attachment 3

UAC Questions for CASIS

1. What percentage of CSP cargo was or is expected to be bumped from ISS cargo missions in 2025 compared to the pre-NG-22 plan?
2. What is CASIS doing to mitigate the damage to research and the IP and CSP community? What can the UAC do to help?
3. How are decisions being made regarding payload and experiment prioritization and funding for existing and new projects in FY25/26?
 - Is there a forecast for GFY 27-30 and can you share it?
4. The UAC is very interested in expanding the base of individuals and orgs that are actively engaged in supporting the ISSNL. We have asked for the ability to use the existing User and PI database (name, institution, email) to query who would like to be involved. Then, only those who respond AFFIRMATIVE will be sent internal/confidential/ communications from the ISSNL on behalf of the UAC (i.e. CASIS is not being asked to provide its database to the UAC). What do we need to do to get started on this?
5. We're always open to hear the current topic priorities – what specific questions or issues can we help address?
6. Facilities Dashboard
 - How is it going?
 - Are people using it?
 - What can we do to help keep it alive and useful?
 - Does it yield any interesting usage statistics?
7. Transition Issues for discussion at another time – maybe a dedicated meeting between CASIS leadership and the UAC, and/or a keynote talk at the ISSRDC
 - How will CASIS partnerships (NSF, other National Labs, etc.) continue when the ISS ends?
 - How can we know the plan for facilities in the future?
 - Will hardware be moved to a CLD or decommissioned at some time?
 - Example: what will live animal testing capability be in the future?
 - Can CASIS play a central role, organizing the information for all the facilities/payloads?
 - How many more experiments can be done in the remaining time?
 - What facilities have extra capacity?
 - Combustion Integrated Rack and Fluids Integrated Rack?
 - How can we intentionally maximize utility of what's available?
 - note: we recognize that CASIS might not have all the answers here. How do we get more answers from NASA?