

UAC Core Committee Monthly

May 27, 2025

11:30 am – 12:30 pm EDT

Agenda: See attachment 1

Attendees: See attachment 2

UAC chair report by Mark Gittleman

LEO Advocacy events with Congressional elected officials in DC are scheduled for June 3rd and 4th. Gittleman to speak on behalf of the UAC. His key message will be the need to fund additional ISS cargo flights for LEO research/science projects. His opening message is that the ISS is a space commerce and R&D incubator that is about to be shut down for a tiny fraction of the national budget.

L Provin mentioned that Mike Gold will be speaking on the importance of research from the national security perspective especially at a time when the quality of space research from countries that pose both an economic and national security threat continues to improve.

Gittleman mention that Boeing, Barrios and John Olsen are also scheduled to speak at the event.

Gittleman recently met with ISS Chief Scientist, Jennifer Buckley. His key takeaway from their discussion was that the best-case scenario for the ISS given the current budget projections was a 3-person crew with 50% science.

Gittleman also mention a space advocacy workshop scheduled for June 10th in Clearlake, Texas, is another event aligned with the broader grass roots space advocacy effort.

UAC CSP subcommittee chair report by Rich Boling

Boling shared that the CSP members have lots of anxiety about the future given proposed budget projections and the challenges the commercial space community has faced during the last 20+ years. He also said the members are aware of the broad range of space advocacy activities.

Gittleman asked Boling to encourage the CSP members to active participants in the space advocacy campaign.

UAC Tech Dev subcommittee chair report by Henry Hanson

Hanson shared some of the impacts his subcommittee members are already experiencing due to the limited flight opportunities

Hanson also shared that members were putting together case studies of the successes that have been achieved through LEO technology development projects. Hanson showed a brief presentation of a sample case study. N. Wagner suggested the presentation would be a great template for the user community to use for future case studies.

Hanson mentioned the subcommittee continues to make progress on the knowledge transfer system and the processes they would use to interact with current/past PI's to gather their lessons learned and share with new entrants into the user community.

UAC Science subcommittee chair report by Ron Joslin

Joslin shared that ISS Chief Scientist, Jennifer Buckley, also met with the Science subcommittee at their May 6th meeting and share a view of the ISS plans for the next 5 years – a message similar to what M. Gittleman covered in his report.

The Science subcommittee's next monthly meeting is June 3rd.

UAC Applied R&D subcommittee report by Nicole Wagner

Wagner shared that the subcommittee last met on April 28th. Christian Maender/Barrios joined that meeting as a new member.

The team had lots of discussion about priorities for the ISSNL. Their recommendation was to significantly reduce the "one-off" type experiments for the short term given the limited remaining flights. Wagner asked if there is a legislative mandate on percentages of experiment types that must be flown. Provin stated that there is neither legislative language nor anything in the CASIS Cooperative Agreement (CA) that dictates project allocation percentages.

Wagner announced two additional members that joined the subcommittee in mid-May : Alain Berinstain/CSS Inc and Mari Anne Snow/Eascra Biotech.

Wagner shared that at the suggestion of CASIS CEO Ray Lugo, she also wrote an op-ed that she sent to the New York Time, but so far has not been published. Therefore, she plans on sending the op-ed to the Washington Post today (5/27). The op-ed focuses on the impacts to basic science, the ISS in general and on how space-based research and development has been so critical to the successful retina restoration work by her company.

Wagner said she would email the op-ed to the other UAC chairs but asked them to not share it with others until it is published.

Gittleman asked all chairs to encourage their members to write their own op-eds. Elected officials will listen if enough of us are loud enough.

Provin stated that the STEM subcommittee is also planning to write an op-ed. Gittleman suggested an op-ed written by a student would be impactful.

Provin shared that CASIS has started doing podcasts and that space research advocacy podcasts would be a great future addition. Provin said that CASIS may reach out to UAC members to be a part of this effort.

Hanson asked if elected officials find value in LEO. Gittleman responded that Texas elected officials absolutely see the value in LEO but may be reluctant to voice their opinion if it appears to be contrary to the current administration's position on the issue.

UAC Education subcommittee chair report by Illana Raia

The Education subcommittee was not represented at this meeting.

Discussion about answering the questions about a methodology for prioritization of payloads between now and the ISS end of life.

Gittleman stated that the goal of today's meeting is to come up with a quick process for getting answers to these questions.

Members suggested that the only fix is to add more cargo flights, but Gittleman reminded the team that CASIS does not control the number of cargo flights, but they do influence which payloads fly on any mission and they are asking the UAC for consensus on recommendations for a methodology the user community would prefer during that prioritization process.

One member asked the CSP chair how they prioritized experiments since they work with most of the projects. Boling's stated that the factors include but are not limited to: technical readiness, external funding, and balancing the need to fly payloads that satisfy a near-term financial milestone with a payload that could help build a broader commercial space business environment.

Further discussions resulted in some of the following ideas:

- Reducing the number of one-off experiments given the limited number of flights
- Have the CASIS CEO meet privately with each CSP to understand their unique business environment and challenges.
- Time sensitive experiments (e.g. – frozen specimens, etc) get higher priority.
- Perhaps a scorecard of key prioritization parameters would be useful.

At the end of the discussion, Gittleman again reminded the team that this is a methodology question since he felt that the ISSNL will stop funding projects sooner rather than later.

Gittleman also asked the chairs how they want to pull together a recommendation. This resulted in an action for the chairs to bring these questions to their subcommittee members for input and a plan for the UAC Chairs to reconvene on this topic during the week of June 16.

Action 05/27 1: UAC Chairs to discuss payload prioritization methodologies with their subcommittees and bring any suggestions to the UAC Chair's team meeting on this topic during the week of June 16th.

Action 05/27 2: M. Ruether to schedule a UAC Chair's team meeting during the week of June 16th to develop an ISS payload prioritization methodology recommendation for submittal to the CASIS CEO.

The next UAC Core team meeting June 26th at 11:30 EDT.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Mark Gittleman, UAC Chair

Attachment 2

Attendees:

Mark Gittleman	UAC Chair
Rich Boling	CSP subcommittee Chair
Henry Hanson	Tec Dev subcommittee Chair
Ron Joslin	Science subcommittee Chair
Nicole Wagner	Applied R&D subcommittee Chair
Laurie Provin	CASIS Director, Strategic Engagement & STEM Programs
Mark Ruether	CASIS Observer