Minutes of the USSCI Board meeting

Location: Zoom

June 4, 2026 - 12:00PM (EDT)

Board members present

- ESSCI:
  - Michael Burke (Secretary)
  - Michael Mueller (Treasurer)
  - Paul Papas
  - Sang Hee Won
- CSSCI:
  - Waruna Kulatilaka (Vice Chair)
  - Ramanan Sankaran
- WSSCI:
  - David Lignell (Chair)
  - Bret Windam

Board members absent

- ESSCI:
  - Jacqueline O'Connor
- CSCCI:
  - Babak Shotorband
  - Kalyan Srinivasan
  - David Rothamer
- WSSCI:
  - John Hewson
  - Nicole Labbe
  - Kyle Neimeyer

Invited guests present

  - None

1. Meeting started at 12:00 PM EDT. David Lignell presided over the meeting. We do not have a quorum.

2. Review of the minutes from the August 2025 meeting is tabled given lack of quorum.

3. There are ~108 students from the USSCI section (43, 35, 30 from Eastern, Central, and Western) attending and presenting at the 2026 International Symposium on Combustion in Kyoto, Japan. (For reference, “student presenters” is used here to refer specifically to the presenting author of accepted ISoC papers in either oral or poster format but not Work-in-Progress posters.) CSSCI and WSSCI are anticipating making travel awards in the range of $500 to $800 per student presenter; ESSCI has not decided yet. The US section has roughly $250 k in reserves, which offer a means to offset any major losses from any USSCI meetings. There is roughly $10-12 k in annual revenue to USSCI from membership dues. There was general interest expressed in providing travel support for USSCI students

to attend and present at the symposium. Based on the number of student presenters (~108) and a two-year revenue of ~$24 k, providing all ~108 students a travel award of roughly $200 would cost ~$22 k (roughly equal to the two-year revenue) such the USSCI reserves would return to roughly $250 k by the time of the next symposium in two years. David Lignell proposed that USSCI offer $200 per student presenter (oral and poster formats). Ramanan Sankaran seconded. All those on the call (David Lignell, Ramanan Sankaran, Waruna Kulatilaka, Michael Mueller, Bret Windom, Michael Burke) voted in favor. Given lack of quorum, further consideration of and broader voting on the motion will be conducted via email.

4. There was also expressed interest in creating a separate bank account for USSCI to provide more control of day-to-day operations and investment decisions. For example, by investing the USSCI reserves, the returns may allow USSCI to offer an additional $200 per student for a future symposium (assuming the number of student attendees is similar) or provide support for other initiatives, while still maintaining a similar balance. This topic is to be discussed at a future USSCI meeting.

5. The meeting adjourned at ~1:10 PM EDT.

Results from the continuation of voting via email

During the period of June 6, 2026 – June 10, 2026

Following the June 6 meeting, David Lignell continued the vote via email to provide $200 in travel support for student presenters to attend the symposium. Beyond the six votes in favor (David Lignell - WSSCI, Ramanan Sankaran - CSSCI, Waruna Kulatilaka - CSSCI, Michael Mueller - ESSCI, Bret Windom - WSSCI, Michael Burke - ESSCI), all nine votes via email (Kyle Neimeyer - WSSCI, Jacqueline O'Connor - ESSCI, Sang Hee Won - ESSCI, Paul Pappas - ESSCI, Babak Shotorband - CSSCI, Kalyan Srinivasan - CSSCI, David Rothamer - CSSCI, John Hewson - WSSCI) were also in favor. The motion therefore passes unanimously.