

Supplement to Strategic Plan for **Space Weather** journal and **Space Weather Quarterly**

These two publications serve both the scientific and the applications-oriented, “above the atmosphere” (particularly space physics and aeronomy, and planetary), membership of the AGU as well as engineers and related professionals who may not join AGU because of its scientific focus. While the AGU had scientific interests in geomagnetism and aeronomy prior to the space age, it was the early pioneers of the space age that brought the community of space physicists and planetary researchers into the Union when competing professional societies (such as the American Physical Society and the American Astronomical Society) were not particularly encouraging. Thus, the future of these two journals should not primarily lie in the hands of the AGU Publications Committee, but also should have input and advice from the membership and leadership of, especially, the Space Physics and Aeronomy section of the Union.

The growth over the last several decades in importance of the applications of the basic research published in **JGR-Space Physics** led to the creation of **SW** and **SWQ**. The intent was to publish not only technical, applications-oriented papers, but also to cover policy issues and non-technical topics. At the time of their creation, the major competition in the applications field was from the AIAA **Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets**, as well as occasionally from the journal **Advances in Space Research** (published by Elsevier for COSPAR, where I served for eight years as a Vice President and on the COSPAR Publications Committee). Currently I consider the major competition for technical papers remains these two journals as well as the new start-up European journal **Space Weather and Space Climate** (which also competes with **JGR-Space Physics**).

There is no current competitive publication that has policy and non-technical space weather articles in its remit. In the last decade the American Meteorological Society (AMS) has become increasingly active in addressing space weather technical and policy issues in its annual meetings (I have been an invited speaker at about half of the last decade’s AMS meetings). This is a result of the expertise and long history of the AMS in terrestrial weather forecasting and in AMS’s extensive contacts with commercial and government (including military) organizations as members and sponsors of its meetings. In fact, the AMS just issued a notable policy statement about space weather (http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/2013spaceweather_amsstatement.html). The AGU has no such policy statement, even though the science underlying space weather has resided in the Union since the advent of the space age.

The AMS has been doing an admirable job broadening the realm and influence of space weather by bringing it to, and including it in, the meteorological community. The **Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society** (**BAMS**, <http://www2.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/publications/bulletin-of-the-american-meteorological-society-bams/>), has many similarities to **SW** in that it publishes policy and non-technical articles and is in hard copy as well as on-line. AGU members and I have concern that the **BAMS** will begin to cover policy and related non-technical space

weather material, in competition with **SW** and **SWQ**. In particular, the hardcopy **BAMS** can be laid on the desks of policy experts and decision-makers, as the **SWQ** is now. The demise of the **SWQ** would greatly inhibit the reach of AGU to these policy and decision makers, and would be contrary to the policy directions that the Union is taking with its huge increase in policy-related staff.

SWQ (and **SW**) must be viewed by AGU as an important policy magazine for the Union and for an influential and important segment of its membership. These magazines need to be viewed as, and budgeted for, in terms of their policy objectives, and not narrowly technically, as are the **JGR** journals. AGU must broaden its definition and budgeting of policy outreach to be more than policy conferences and Congressional visits. That is, the **SWQ** should continue to be published and to be distributed to policy and decision-makers as it has been for the last decade. These individuals with influence will not go to the **SW** web site to see the latest posting on some important policy matter. They will look at the **SWQ** coming across their desks, as many have told me that they do.

There is also the important matter of attracting contributors for the non-technical articles in **SW**. Many of these articles are by non-research readers (and some non-members of AGU). These individuals will be much harder to recruit for authorship if they know that their articles will not appear in both **SW** and in the **SWQ** that will find its way to the desks of decision-makers.

In summary, the issues concerning the future of **SW** and **SWQ** are critical for how the Union intends to address decision-makers and policy professionals in the area of space physics, aeronomy, and planetary, and to support its membership in these areas. I am convinced that the demise of **SWQ**, as seems to be currently contemplated, will eviscerate the non-technical aspects of the **SW** journal, and will permit other organizations (domestic- or foreign-based) to seize leadership from the Union. It is imperative for the Union to consult with its membership before taking such action. Any finalized action must be taken with full recognition of the implications for the Union, its policy programs, and – most importantly – its membership.

Omitted in the previously submitted Strategy document was mention of the retention of the *Editor's Choice* column in **SW** and **SWQ**. A separate editor, Dr. Howard Singer of NOAA, maintains this column. This column reports on current papers related to the scope of **SW** that are published in other AGU journals, especially **GRL**, **JGR-Space Physics**, and **Radio Science**. In addition to listings of these papers, Dr. Singer prepares excellent summaries, each with a figure, for three of the most relevant papers for quarterly publication in **SWQ**. These summaries, and the quarterly listings, are also seen and read by policy leaders and decision makers, providing them with an excellent perspective on the extensive scope of AGU publications in space physics, aeronomy, and planetary research.

Louis J. Lanzerotti
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