

IUSSI-NAS Newsletter Message from Outgoing President, James C. Nieh

As my term as President of the IUSSI-NAS comes to a close, I would like to extend my gratitude for your support, collaboration, and dedication to our society. Serving this community has been both an honor and a pleasure, and I am deeply appreciative of the collective efforts that have driven our progress over the past few years.

One of our key accomplishments has been the reform of our society's constitution. This was no small task, and I am grateful for the thoughtful input and engagement from our membership during this process. The reform, which established an election quorum, laid the groundwork for an online election system that President Emeritus, Juergen Liebig, initiated and helped to improve election accessibility and transparency. Another change, reverting to a three-year term for the Secretary and Treasurer helps with continuity and recognizes that it takes about a year just to transition into these roles. I am also pleased that we now have clear and well-defined guidelines for leadership transitions, ensuring smooth and efficient replacements if needed.

We also now have a six-week period in which members can comment online, on new proposals. We have now used this new system to solicit feedback on several important initiatives, including the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) statement for our website.

I am particularly pleased to highlight the launch of our new membership platform, JointIt. This platform represents a significant step forward in modernizing and improving our membership experience. I owe a special debt of gratitude to our Secretary, Mike Simone-Finstrom, for his leadership in implementing this system, as well as to our current Treasurer, Claire Rittschof, and our past Treasurer, Michael Goodisman, for their help. The JointIt platform provides us with the tools to grow our membership and, in doing so, expand the resources available to support students and early-career researchers, who are the future of our society.

Speaking of which, I am glad that we have now launched [our crowdfunding website for the IUSSI-NAS Student Travel Award](#) to help students attend the 2026 IUSSI Freiberg meeting. This is our first foray into crowdfunding, and seems to be the only one currently active in any section. I hope you will take pride in the generosity of our members and consider giving.

I am confident that the IUSSI-NAS is poised for continued growth and success. However, I see several future challenges that we must address to ensure our society thrives:

1. Normalizing Online Input and Voting Processes: It is vital that gathering online input and conducting online elections become standard practices within our society, ensuring they are widely adopted and consistently utilized to promote accessibility and active participation. **Please vote in the elections (see attachment and links below) and note that we will first vote for the President-Elect and members of the DEIJ committee. This will be followed by a reminder email and voting on the remaining committee members.**

2. Growing Our Membership: Continuing to expand our membership base is essential and will provide us with the resources and momentum needed to support our initiatives and strengthen our community.

3. Increasing Member Interaction: We should seek to enhance engagement, perhaps by organizing more breakout meetings and fostering opportunities for collaboration and dialogue.

4. Meeting Funding Challenges: Securing sustainable funding remains a priority as we aim to grow our efforts, including student travel awards and DEIJ initiatives.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. It has been a privilege to work with such an inspiring and engaged membership. I will remain an active member of our society, continue to support the IUSSI Student Travel Award, and represent us on the IUSSI Financial Sub-Committee.

I look forward to seeing our society evolve and strengthen under the leadership of President Anna Dornhaus.

Sincerely,
James C. Nieh
Outgoing President, IUSSI-NAS