

Minutes of the conference phone call 1/15/03

Present on the conference call:

Dave Belanger
Julie Borchers
Simon Billinge
Rob Briber
Jim Jorgensen
Jim Rhyne
Greg Smith
Costas Stassis

Missing:

Anne Mayes

Agenda:

1. President & Vice President transfer issues
 1. March 2003 APS meeting exhibit (JR)
 2. ACNS 2004 advance planning (JR)
 3. Shull Prize award process
 4. Liason with ENSA
2. Secretary transfer issues
 1. arrangements for conference calls
 2. previous minutes files
3. Treasurer transfer issues
 1. NSSA financial summary
 2. Shull prize endowment
4. Membership secretary transfer issues
 1. Membership data-base
 2. Neutron news subscriptions
 3. Web site and domain name
5. General items
 1. Appointment of 3 at-large members of Exec Comm
 2. Neutron data-book reprinting
 3. Pynn remote access survey

Discussions (action items in bold-italics):

- 1.1 (JR) Double-wide booth has been ordered for APS March-2003. Invoice will be sent to Anne Mayers. Historically Henry Glide has handled bookings – ***this needs to be reassigned. JR will send contact info to RB.***
- 1.2 ACNS 2004 is coming up and only in early stages of organization. First order of business is to cement a location. ***JJ agreed to contact NIST, LANL etc.*** to make

sure they aren't expecting/hoping to host it. Otherwise, discussions about Argonne hosting it at a site close to Chicago will be stepped up. **JB will send "the notebook"** from the last ACNS organizers (filled with indispensable information) to whomever has responsibility for the ANS 2004 program.

- 1.3 I don't have any notes on discussion on this point, other than the finances for the Shull prize appear to be in good shape and that Ann Mayr had solicited contributions from the membership but wasn't present to report on the success of this.
- 1.4 For informational purposes JR mentioned that his administration had intended to forge closer ties with ENSA but this slipped through the cracks. The new Exec Comm can do what it likes with this information. Maybe a joint ACNS/ENSA executive committee meeting should be arranged in Sardinia or on the Amalfi coast (ok, that wasn't discussed, but not a bad idea, eh?)
 - 2.1 Conference calls were easy under the administration of JB because of the excellent facilities for this at NIST. She suggested that Greg Smith take this over since similar facilities exist at Oak Ridge. Paul Butler is the local expert. **GS agreed to take over the responsibility for arranging the monthly conference calls.**
 - 2.2 **JB will send previous minute files to SB. RB requested to get copies too.**
 - 3.1 Financial summary was tabled since AM was not present. **DB will ask AM to forward the financial summary to the new Exec Comm.** However, JR summarized qualitatively the situation which is healthy. Generous and so far adequate funds come from DOE as well as there being some residual funds from previous ACNS and ICNS conferences. NSSA was recently recognized as a non-profit organization. CS mentioned that Iowa State U wants to stop being banker for the NSSA. The way it currently works is that DOE funds go to an account at Brookhaven that is invoiced by ISU to pay for NSSA expenses. ISU only charges undergraduate labor as overhead. This is obviously very favorable to NSSA and the arrangement should be continued, either at ISU or at another University. **DB promised to look into this issue**, e.g., whether the responsibility could be taken over by U. Maryland.
 - 3.2 See 1.3
 - 4.1 The current membership database is in a somewhat chaotic state resulting from an unfavorable change in the secretarial situation at ISU. There was some discussion about how to make things more effective. **GS agreed to look into taking over the database and managing it at Oak Ridge. JB agreed to discuss the possibility of moving the list management to SNS where Al Ekkebus, the SNS user coordinator, seems to have expressed interest in being involved.** There is no particular hurry to move the data-base and finances since the current agreement with ISU runs through 10/1/03.
 - 4.2 Many members appear not to be getting Neutron News. Judie Pray, editor of Neutron News, is interested in cooperating to help sort out this situation. I don't have a note of a specific person who agreed to take responsibility but presumably this falls in the domain of the membership secretary, GS.

- 4.3 ***JR graciously agreed to continue to maintain the NSSA web-site*** if the new Exec Comm is happy with that. The domain name has been paid for for the next few years (didn't note the exact date).
- 5.1 Outgoing at-large members are Chun Loong, Henry Glyde and DB. It is up to the new ExCom to appoint new officials (see below)
- 5.2 Gordon and Breach wants to reprint the blue neutron data-book and is soliciting presales. Do we want to distribute this to those members who currently don't have one? The cost will be ~\$5 per copy.
- 5.3 Do we want to broadcast the results of the Pynn survey about community opinions on remote access to facilities? The sense was "yes" but we should get an unfiltered/unsummarized version from Roger to use as the basis for this mailing. ***SB agreed to contact Roger Pynn for this information.***

Finally, CS expressed the thanks and wishes of the old ExCom for the stellar efforts of JR over his term as president. This was supported by all present.

There followed an ad-hoc meeting of the new ExCom after the old members hung up. This meeting discussed issues raised during the main conference call that required immediate decisions:

- 1 At large candidates
 - 2 ACNS 2003
 - 3 Web page
 - 4 Membership drive/management
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1. JJ asserted that at-large members presented a good opportunity to balance the makeup of the committee in terms of facilities and gender. Currently, neither NIST nor LANL are represented. Also, there are no women on the ExCom. A list of first choice (I) and alternate (II) candidates was drawn up for consideration. ***RB will contact them:***
 - a. I. Candidate 1a, II. Candidate 1b
 - b. I Candidate 2a, II Candidate 2b
 - c. I Candidate 3a II Candidate 3b
 2. After feedback from JJ we need to form an organizing committee pronto. Tabled for next call. It was also noted that we should start thinking about the next but one ACNS as this may have to be organized during our tenure.
 3. Discussions were held about the best way to encourage new members to join NSSA without upsetting present members by sending out mass-mailings. Suggestions included giving facility users a sheet to sign (rather than a form to fill in) if they wanted to join. ***GS agreed to look into this.***

Respectfully submitted
Simon Billinge, 1/18/03