

NSSA Executive Committee

Minutes of the conference phone call 11:00am ET, 03/31/04

(action items in bold red)

Present on the conference call:

Shenda Baker
Dave Belanger
Simon Billinge
Rob Briber
Jim Jorgensen
Susan Krueger
Greg Smith
Franz Trouw

Missing:

Agenda

1.) ACNS update (Dave Belanger, Shenda Baker, Rob Briber) Money/Budget (Dave)
Number of abstracts, program details (Shenda)

ACNS Student Award process (Shenda/Rob)

Program subcommittee to review student award submissions from their sorting category to final committee (Rowe, Lynn, Baker) for determination of student award. Presentation by Rowe at Tuesday night banquet.

Other ACNS items

2.) letters, letters, letters

NCNR Budget Letter

Sent:

The Honorable John McCain, The Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, The Honorable Sam Brownback, The Honorable John B. Breaux, The Honorable Ted Stevens, The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, The Honorable Judd Gregg, The Honorable Sherwood Boehlert, The Honorable Bart Gordon, The Honorable Vernon J. Ehlers, The Honorable Mark Udall, The Honorable C.W. Bill Young, The Honorable David R. Obey, The Honorable Frank R. Wolf, The Honorable Jose E. Serrano, The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes, The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski, The Honorable Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans, Under Secretary of Commerce Phillip J. Bond, Director Arden L. Bement, Jr., Deputy Director Hratch Semerjian, Dr. J. Michael Rowe, Director Jack Marburger, Associate Director Kathie Olsen, Associate Director Richard Russell, Director Joshua B. Bolton, Associate Director Marcus Peacock, Steve McMillin, OMB, Erin Wuchte, OMB

ACNS invitation letters

Sent:

Rep Bart Gordon (TN) (Tues Banquet)
Senator Barbara Mikulski (MD) (Monday lunch)

Going out on Wed:
Drs. Marburger, Bement, Dehmer (all opening welcomes on 1st day)

User Group Chairs Letter
Letter drafted by Greg Smith inviting User Group Chairs to participate in NSSA functions (copy attached).
Going out Thurs

ACNS User Group reception Letter (Tuesday evening)
letter has gone out from Paul Sokol to Facility Directors (copy attached).

3.) plaques, glass sculptures, etc. (Briber)

4.) Other business

Discussions:

1.) Shull Prize Announcement (Rob Briber)

Everyone received the announcement? Did it look OK? Yes! List of places where it was sent are above. Neutron news is ok, MRS/ACA/ all confirmed receipt. APS/AIP didn't respond. How should we follow up? No suggestions, **RB will follow up with Shu (?) at AIP/APS**. These additional places were listed last-time so should be contacted: Nature, Science, IUCr, ANL mailing list. **JJ will send IUCr contacts to RB. RB will do ANL neutron list, Nature and Science.**

2.) Tax free status in MD (Rob Briber, Dave Belanger)

Main officers have to put social security numbers.

3.) Budget cut at NIST (Rob Briber)

Email from Paul Sokol on this issue (see above). RB responded to Paul Sokol about how NSSA could respond. RB thinks we should send an email to our mailing list encouraging people to send letters. Letter: it should be general outlining the threat to *all* facilities. JJ: IPNS perspective is different. Don't want to stir the water because operating budgets have been maintained. SJB: really this letter would be to raise awareness in Congress about this issue, the importance of neutron scattering. General: yep, make it general with a national perspective. **RB and SJB will draft something and then it will be distributed to the committee for comments.** FT: talk to someone at APS about how to handle this, use available expertise: congressional fellow? **RB will find out who at APS knows how best to do this kind of thing.**

RB: APS arranges congressional visits for officers. We could do it but it would be a lot of work.

RB: Could also have a computer station set up at ACNS for people to send letters easily. SB: to get a good response, use a default letter. RB: yep, we will be able to use the APS web-page that is exactly set up this way and we can use this. You enter your zip code, it finds the right

representatives, etc.. SJB: don't use NIST computers for this. RB: no, Jeff Lynn is sensitive to issues like that. It should be handled ok.

4.) plaques, glass sculptures, etc. (Shenda Baker/Greg Smith)

Greg sent out ppt file showing the crystal. Crystal shape is good for us. GS: it costs \$400. FT: I know a glass artist. Can I pitch the idea to him? General: yep, see what he can do. **FT will contact the artist. Deadline for decision, next call. Deadline for delivery: ACNS meeting.** Student award things are cheap: \$30. General: looks ok, lets do it. Consensus is to engrave it ahead of time and give it at the meeting; therefore no name on there.

6.) ACNS Update (Jim Jorgensen, Dave Belanger, Rob Briber)

Previously ACNS had a large user-group meeting + panel discussion. Not well received. Instead this time there is a proposal from Paul Sokol: have a reception with four quadrants addressing different user issues:

At 10:49 PM -0500 1/14/04, Paul Sokol wrote:

>Hi All:

>

>I wanted to set out a tentative agenda for our
>teleconference tomorrow. The items I would like
>to discuss are:

>

>1) How do we structure the reception. In
>the initial discussions with the various user
>groups we had viewed this as a hosted reception
>with refreshments and snacks. Various focus
>areas would be located around the periphery of
>the room.

>Is this a reasonable way to set things up?

>How many of these areas should we have? The

>original idea was to have four - one for each

>corner of the room.

>How should information be presented in these areas - posters, ·?

>2) What topics should the focus areas cover? A preliminary list is:

>1 - Source news - recent developments and future plans

> Should we include funding issues?

> Should we use this as an opportunity to promote lobbying
efforts?

>2 - Instruments - New and upgraded instruments

>3 - User services such as sample environment and

>data analysis programs. (We might want to give

>this one extra space.)

>4 - Administrative issues

> User group policies

> Source policies

> Proposal process and timing

> User support

> Lodging, etc.

- >3) How do we focus discussion in these areas?
- >4) How do we obtain feedback from the users?
- >5) What results do we report? And to whom? User groups? Sources? Funding agencies?

>

>I look forward to talking with you tomorrow.

>

>Regards

>

>Paul

>

>

>

>The ACNS meeting is only six months away and I

>would like to start organizing this users

>meeting soon. Towards that end I would like to

>begin discussing the organization of this

>meeting. There are several questions that we

>must address such as:

>

>1) How should the facilities present their

>future plans (booths, short talks, etc)

>2) What other topics should be covered (

>sample environment, data analysis, ·)

>3) Should we include administrative issues

>(proposal process, instrument support, ·)

>4) How do we effectively obtain feedback from the users on these issues?

>5) How do we report, and to whom, the results of this session.

>

>It would be useful to have an initial discussion

>(brainstorming sessions) soon so that we can

>begin to define how we are going to structure

>this session and what topics we will cover.

>

>

>=====

>Paul E. Sokol

Phone: 814-863-5811

>Professor of Physics

Fax: 814-865-9441

>Department of Physics

>E-mail:

><<mailto:paul@sokol.phys.psu.edu>>paul@sokol.phys.psu.edu

>104 Davey Lab

>Web;

><<http://sokol.phys.psu.edu>><http://sokol.phys.psu.edu>

>Penn State University

>University Park, PA 16802

>

>

DB: we have to be careful since ACNS is supposed to be a national user meeting. SB: Paul Sokol is working very hard to involve user groups.

RB: ACNS will have to pay for this reception too. Could be cash bar to keep costs down.

Other issues: posters went out? Some received, some not. Invited speaker list will be finalized today and invitations sent out soon. Total number is 35-40.

7.) Other business

GS: should we have our own independent email site that is not lab-based? Same issue for web-site hosting. Right now it is some freebee thing that Jim Rhyne arranged. Should we formalize these arrangements? General, yes we should look into this. **GS will research some different options.**

GS: North American facilities meeting. User groups' money comes from facilities hence have problems asking members to write letters. Would the NSSA be interested in sponsoring a working-group of user-group chairs to give feedback on user issues. RB: sounds like a good idea. General: throw it back to the user groups to come up with a proposal. **GS will draft an email, send it round to the excom, then send it to the user-group chairmen.**

Call ended 12:15pm

Respectfully submitted, Simon Billinge, 4/1/04