

NSSA Executive Committee

Minutes of the conference phone call 11:30am ET, 2/27/05

(action items in bold red)

Present on the conference call:

Shenda Baker (SB)
Dave Belanger (DB)
Simon Billinge (SJB)
Rob Briber (RB)
Greg Smith (GS)

Missing:

Jim Jorgensen (JJ)
Susan Krueger (SK)
Franz Trouw (FT)

Agenda

1.) Accept minutes from 1/13/05 conference call
Documents distributed by Simon

2.) Update on ACNS 2006 (Rob)

3.) Use of NSSA name by BWXT (Rob)

Quote from Prof. R.M. Briber (President NSSA): "Production of fuel for the U.S. research reactors is a critical national need. These reactors are a source of neutrons used in wide ranging scientific research in the fields of medicine, biology, physics and engineering and form a cornerstone of our technological leadership in the world marketplace."

4.) Proposal to NSSA for support of workshop on biological membranes (Felcher and Pynn, organizers). Files attached.

5.) Continued discussion of additional NSSA prizes (Simon and Susan)
Document circulated by Simon and Susan

6.) Discussion of NSSA Fellows
Document circulated by Shenda and Greg

5.) Other Business

Discussions:

1.) Accept minutes from 13/1/05 conference call. Minutes accepted without dissent.
2.) Update on ACNS 2006 (Rob)

Not much to report. Conference site contract signed modulo an amendment that looks ok. Everything going smoothly with that. RB: The conference organizers need to identify a replacement to take over the role played by Jim Jorgensen in the organization of the program and coordinating with the NSSA. Discussion followed about (1) whether the conference organizers should join the monthly excom conference call (2) How we transfer information to the new excom that will be elected possibly this summer.

3.) Use of NSSA name by BWXT (Rob)

Quote from Prof. R.M. Briber (President NSSA): "Production of fuel for the U.S. research reactors is a critical national need. These reactors are a source of neutrons used in wide ranging scientific research in the fields of medicine, biology, physics and engineering and form a cornerstone of our technological leadership in the world marketplace."

No dissent to this statement. GS: offer to send this out as an official NSSA statement. No dissent to this so RB will offer this to the people of BWXT if they like it better.

4.) Proposal to NSSA for support of workshop on biological membranes (Felcher and Pynn, organizers).

We have a formal proposal now from Felcher and Pynn. DB: have to be very careful that we are not seen to be underwriting conferences. The issue is that DOE gives us money, and supports conferences, then we funnel funds to the conference..this is not appropriate. However, an important mission of ours is building the North American neutron user community. It was decided that it is not appropriate to channel funds to a conference. In particular, the conference budget that was submitted in the present case indicates that NSSA would be underwriting more than the student travel bursaries. This is not acceptable. Note: it is rather important that we make sure that the NSSA name should be removed from the conference budget.

Lengthy discussion followed about what was an appropriate and desirable way forward for NSSA here. We want to build community, but why support this conference and not others? It was suggested that we could set up a scheme whereby students could apply directly to NSSA for a one-time travel grant to attend a neutron-related conference. This would involve some work, principally for the treasurer, but in all other regards seems to be the right thing that we should be doing.

A discussion of implementation was had: (1) Post a travel reimbursement request form on the web-site "NSSA is willing to make a one-time grant to support students and young scientists (within 6 years of Ph.D) up to \$250 to help offset travel and registration expenses for a neutron related conference" (wording to be finalized). (2) post the travel reimbursement form for students to fill in and submit. Later, this can be done from within a secure members' area. Need some kind of email verification from the Professor stating they are a student, and

a way to verify that they attended the conference (official receipts are possibly sufficient?). Applications will be sent to DB and DB and RB will make the approvals. DB will make the reimbursements.

**5.) Continued discussion of additional NSSA prizes (Simon and Susan)
Document circulated by Simon and Susan**

Simon will incorporate DB's proposed changes and bring to the next meeting.

**6.) Discussion of NSSA Fellows
Document circulated by Shenda and Greg**

Tabled for next meeting

5.) Other Business

1) secure access to the web-server. Simon, Rob, Greg, Jim Rhyne will figure out how to do this. Simon will make an initial design of the database/access.

Call ended 12:30 pm

Respectfully submitted, Simon Billinge, 2/27/05