

NSSA Executive Committee
Minutes of the meeting during ACNS, 6:00pm CT, 6/22/06

Present:

Roger Pynn (RP)
Simon Billinge (SJB)
Angus Wilkinson (AW)
Suzanne te Velthuis (StV)
Greg Smith (GS)
John Root (JR)
Brent Fultz (BF)

Missing:

Shenda Baker (SB)

Agenda

- 1) Legacy
 - 2) IPNS
-

Discussions

1) Legacy

In the discussion of our legacy the following ideas were presented:

We want to steer the neutron scattering society through the period of expansion. This could be done by doubling NSSA membership numbers from 1500 to 3000. We should try to have a significant portion of the people come from non-traditional fields.

Goals:

- Plan for diversifying and growing community
- Training & education
- Access
- High risk experiments
- Early experiments

Needs:

- A range of neutron sources

We want to:

- Engage community and have Strategic plan by end of 2006.
- Enhance funding for research for university users.
- Improve diversity
 - Should we ask BES/NSF for money to actively do something?
- Funding for travel for experiments.

It is decided that it would be appropriate to make a Strategic Plan that covers all these issues.

Outline of the Strategic Plan:

- Vision (2-3 statements)
 - 1) Grow community
 - 2) Double number of members.
 - 3) Double underrepresented groups: aim for scientific & demographic diversity
- Practical Strategies:
 - 1) Contact neutron school students to join
 - 2) Form subcommittee to look at topical conferences in the US where we could propose talks of research done using neutron scattering, or sessions with strong presence of research done using neutron scattering.
 - 3) Make website more educational:
 - Wikipedia or something like the European muon-neutron portal.
 - Possibly get NSF grant for website. This might work to set it up, but not for maintaining it. Maintaining the site could cost a lot of money if you have it done professionally.
 - It needs to be decided what the website should do.
 - 4) Funding university positions.
 - Need more career scatterers that are not at facilities but at universities.
 - Possibly through the NSF “neutron chairs”
 - 5) Collaborate with other societies. We could use some of their resources.

Realization:

- 1st draft by August
- Solicit ideas from membership for strategies. Tell them we need to put together a plan for neutron scattering within the framework of the American Competitiveness Initiative. Give them choices, list of ideas they would prioritize.
- Finalize document by the end of 2006.

It was discussed whether or not to start invoking membership dues at some time. It is pointed out that if we do, to deal with the administrative burden associated with collecting dues, we would need assistance from outside company.

2) IPNS

It is decided that it is not our role to be advocates for a specific neutron facility, but only of neutron scattering as a whole. As representatives of neutron scattering community in North America our viewpoint is that:

A Network of Neutron Sources with diverse capabilities is essential for the health of neutron scattering in North America. Number of beam lines is as important as flux.

We will put this view forth in the strategic plan, that then can be sent around. IPNS is a part of this network.

Meeting ended 8:00pm CT

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne te Velthuis, 7/11/06.