

NSSA Executive Committee
Minutes of the conference phone call 2:00pm EST, 10/13/2008
(action items in red)

Present on the conference call:

Roger Pynn (RP)
Suzanne te Velthuis (StV)
Greg Smith (GS)
Angus Wilkinson (AW)
Simon Billinge (SJB)
Shenda Baker (SB)

Missing:

John Root (JR)
Brent Fultz (BF)

Agenda

- 1) Approval of minutes of 09/08/2008 teleconference call.**
- 2) Review of action items from last minutes**
- 3) Constitutional changes vote**
- 4) ICNS09**
- 5) APS booth**
- 6) AOB**
- 7) Set date for next call**

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Discussions

1) Approval of minutes of 09/08/2008 teleconference call

The minutes of the 09/08/2008 teleconference call are approved.

2) Review of action items from last minutes

2a) Previous item 2a (Shull prize nomination packages): Still outstanding item. **StV will remind Bruce Gaulin again to send packages to her.**

2b) Previous item 3 (ICNS09). Still outstanding item. **RP has not yet contacted Pat Hastings (MRS) to offer help with grant applications. Will do so.**

2c) Previous item 4 (Constitutional changes) Completed. Voting website with information has been created. **Email to membership asking them to vote should go out this week.** The ORNL person helping with the site was out last week, otherwise it would have been done by now.

3) Constitutional changes vote

Discussed in 2c.

4) ICNS09

GS reports:

4a) ICNS website is up and running as link under "meetings" on MRS website. The organization is unhappy with this site, as the MRS site has too much MRS advertising, as

if ICNS is an MRS conference. All functionalities will be within the MRS domain, but there should be purely a ICNS front page hosted by ORNL. SJB thought that this was already decided upon. **GS states they will create one.**

4b) The program committee has started its work and are converging on session topics and organizers.

4c) An email announcing the conference will be sent out to the neutron scattering community soon.

4d) BNL has received information from ORNL for getting DOE approval for the conference. This will enable us to apply for a DOE grant. **We need to follow up on this at the next call.**

5) APS booth

StV received an email from the APS march meeting exhibit organizers. It is now possible to reserve a booth for the next meeting. AW would like to hold off ordering the booth (and having it billed to us) until the next calendar year. In principle the Execcom thinks it is a good idea, but will wait until January 2009 to commit, so the newly elected Execcom members can have a say in the decision. The past few years we have held off reserving a booth until January or February, so this should not be a problem.

6) AOB

6a) **RP will remind Paul Sokol (IU) about LENS' commitment to contribute funds to the ACNS08.**

6b) AW reports that NSSA has set up a new ING bank account into which a portion of NSSA funds have been transferred. This arrangement was made to ensure NSSA funds were below or close to the amount insured by the FDIC at that time, thereby reduce the risk to the NSSA.

SJB asks if we have a plan for these funds, as they are sizeable, and if there is a risk to loose non-profit status or our ability to obtain support from funding agencies for conferences.

AW: Only if we have much more income from interest is it a tax issue. Part of the money is restricted (Shull prize and travel grants endowments), while the rest is unrestricted. The execcom cannot make unrestricted funds restricted (i.e. endow the prizes), but can spend it on the prizes and grants. The present Execcom determines it is an issue for the next execcom to decide how to expand usage of the funds.

6c) It is asked if anyone besides SJB has signed up for Facebook and joined the NSSA Facebook group set up by Yang Zhang? No one has. StV reports that students from the National School on Neutron and Xray scattering were told about the site while they were attending the school and some have signed up. **RP will ask Pat Hastings for photographs from ACNS08 so that they can be used as content for the site.**

After the constitutional vote GS will send out the email to the membership informing them of the site.

7) Set date for next call

Monday November 3rd, 2pm EST.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne te Velthuis, 10/29/08.