

NSSA Executive Committee
Minutes of the conference phone call 11:00am ET, 08/05/04

Present on the conference call:

Dave Belanger (DB)
Simon Billinge (SJB)
Rob Briber (RB)
Jim Jorgensen (JJ)
Susan Krueger (SK)
Greg Smith (GS)
Franz Trouw (FT)

Missing:

Shenda Baker (SB)

Agenda

- 1.) **ACNS Accounting** (Briber, Belanger)
Files sent by e-mail
- 2.) **Other business**
- 4.) **Other business**

Discussions:

- 1.) **ACNS Accounting** (Briber, Belanger):
 1. RB: final bill to the Inn and Conference Center has been paid after correcting some tax and rate issues. We are satisfied that everything is ok with it. Still to finalize is the the bill with the UM conference organizers.
 2. DB summarized the conference finances. The conference made a profit that will be close to \$70k. In part this came from an underspend on the invited speaker travel budget and the healthy registration numbers (475 total, 128 students)
 3. There is roughly \$200k in the society bank account. Some discussion followed about what should be done with this money. It was agreed that we should look into foundation accounts to store funds for the Shull and student prizes.
 4. NSF requires a final report for their funds. DB will submit this.
 5. The meeting generated publicity for neutron scattering. There were articles in APS and MRS magazines. There was discussion about whether there were other journals where articles could appear to leverage this publicity even more.
 6. RB will send a letter to Cliff Shull to follow up on the offer of \$10k to help endow the Shull prize.
- 4.) **Other business**
 1. **Next ACNS meeting.**

- a. JJ gave a summary of activities to date on the next ACNS. It was discussed how expertise from prior meetings can be transferred to the next organizers. Also how NSSA excom should be involved to ensure continuity: The president/VP and treasurer should work actively with the conference organizing committee.
 - b. Housing costs in Chicago were discussed as well as the wisdom of offering inexpensive student housing.
2. **Societies goals.** A discussion ensued about exactly how the society is performing and what it should/could be doing better.
- a. JJ: neutron scattering is not figuring strongly in major awards such as Nobel/National Academy membership etc.. We need to be more proactive about publicizing the successes of neutron scattering. We also received feedback from senior members of DOE and elsewhere that neutron scatterers are not effective at selling their accomplishments to the wider community. Can NSSA help with this?
 - b. JJ: can we use society funds to run ISI citation searches to discover for ourselves where neutron scattering is having an impact by some outside measure?
 - c. JJ: we need more prizes. Prizes beget prizes (and publicity). Rather than seek \$100k to endow the Shull prize in perpetuity, wouldn't it be better to take a risk and start more prizes on the basis that funds will be available to pay the Shull prize winner as long as the prize stays relevant.
 - d. New prizes should be science based and not reward "service to neutrons"
 - e. Learn better public relations: can we leverage the professional staff that other societies have by becoming affiliated, e.g., AIP, APS, biophysical society.

Call ended 12:07pm

Respectfully submitted, Simon Billinge, 8/11/04