

Minutes from 11/18/04 NSSA Executive Committee Conference call

Present

Briber
Krueger
Jorgensen
Belanger
Trouw
Smith

Significant discussion on the costs of the proposed ACNS 2006 at the Sheraton in Downtown Chicago.

Room rates in the contract were \$203 per night.
It was pointed out that this is well above the DOE per diem of ~\$150/night

Significant concern was expressed that this high cost would limit both the attendance of DOE scientist and University faculty and students.

Jorgensen indicated that he had had discussions with IPNS about this but IPNS wished to proceed.

Concern about the budget situation at DOE labs for the next 2 years was expressed, indicating that travel may be limited by budget cuts.

It was generally agreed that the site for this conference was not that important as people will spend much of the time in the hotel and a model of keeping the ACNS like a “large Gordon Conference” was expressed. In many ways, some isolation of the conferees was OK as it promoted interaction and scientific discussion.

It was also noted that for the ACNS 2004, downtown Washington DC locations were rejected because of the high cost and the site near the Univ. of Maryland was selected.

Action item: Briber would call IPNS and express the unanimous concern of the NSSA Executive Committee that the downtown Chicago Sheraton was too expensive and that an alternate, less expensive (suburban?) site should be sought. The goal for cost would be something in line with the standard DOE per diem for housing at the location chosen.

A short discussion of other possible NSSA prizes ensued. Jorgensen proposed the model of having 2 prizes:

- 1 for sustained research using neutrons
- 1 for outstanding recent accomplishment with neutrons (probably with a time frame – last 3 years?)

This model removes the problem of tying the prize to a particular field of science, which is quite difficult with only limited prizes and resources.

Action Item: The matter as given to Susan Krueger and Simon Billenge for further study and they would come back to the committee with proposals.