

NSSA Executive Committee
Minutes of the conference phone call 11:00am ET, 12/09/04

Present on the conference call:

Shenda Baker (SB)
Dave Belanger (DB)
Simon Billinge (SJB)
Rob Briber (RB)
Jim Jorgensen (JJ)
Susan Krueger (SK)
Greg Smith (GS)

Missing:

Franz Trouw (FT)

Agenda

- 1.) Accept minutes from 11/18/04 conference call, distributed by Simon.**
- 2.) Update on IPNS proposal for ACNS 2006 (Rob)**
- 3.) Continued discussion of additional NSSA prizes (Simon and Susan)**
- 4.) Other Business**

Discussions:

- 1.) Accept minutes from 11/18/04 conference call.** Minutes accepted without dissent.
- 2.) Update on IPNS proposal for ACNS 2006 (Rob)** Number of suburban hotels have been tried but are too small or not available. Working with a conferencing company to find something, preferably in the western suburbs. Nothing yet but they are still working on it. Rob gave guidance on cost: should be at or below the DOE reimbursement limit for the area. Also emphasized that the flavor should be that of a supersized Gordon conference.
- 3.) Continued discussion of additional NSSA prizes (Simon and Susan)**
The consensus of discussions were along these lines:
 - 1) Shouldn't confine prize definitions by research area at all
 - 2) A prize based on a major scientific accomplishment in the prior N years is a good idea. This could go to more than one person.
 - 3) A prize based on sustained scientific contributions is also desirable but would have to be differentiated with the Shull prize. This could be done by making Shull-prize a "lifetime" award including leadership etc., but the new prize "sustained contribution to science".

4) Initiate an NSSA fellows program. E.g., no more than 1/2% of membership accepted in any given year. Details to be determined. Need to have nominations but could allow more than 1/2% in the first few years.

Need to get the prizes sorted before the end of our term.

4.) Other Business

1) new elections. When should they occur? Next fall is the latest, but maybe should be moved up so the new excom has enough time to get things together for the next ACNS.

2) Jim Roberto would like help to gain continued support from DOE for maintenance (rather than upgrade). DOE has promised \$4M x 2 for this, but Jim Roberto would like some support so this doesn't fall by the wayside. SB/GB: should we write that infrastructure should be supported at all DOE facilities? This is important for LANSCE too.

3) NIST's budget has been restored, including \$6M for NCNR improvements. There was impact from our letter writing campaign and those of our membership.

4) Gian Felcher is running a workshop on a new spin technique at Indiana U. He wants to write a proposal seeking funding for his workshop. There are some precedents for this.

Call ended 12:05 pm

Respectfully submitted, Simon Billinge, 12/09/04