

NSSA Executive Committee
Minutes of the conference phone call 11:30am ET, 4/4/05
(action items in bold red)

Present on the conference call:

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

Missing:

Jim Jorgensen (JJ)
Franz Trouw (FT)

Agenda

1.) Accept minutes from 2/28/05 conference call

Documents distributed by Simon

2.a) Update on ACNS 2006 (Rob/Dave)

2.b) APS update (Rob)

3.) Use of NSSA name by BWXT (Rob)

Ellen Kuo (lobbyist for BWXT) has asked that I send a letter (I have a draft) in support of their request to Congress. Draft is attached.

4.) Office of Science funding (DOE) (Rob)

5.) NSSA support of workshop on biological membranes (Felcher and Pynn, organizers). Update: Our proposal accepted to support their workshop for \$5k for student travel. (Rob)

6.) NSSA secure website/database (Simon)

7.) Continued discussion of additional NSSA prizes (Simon and Susan)

Discussion of NSSA Fellows

Document circulated by Shenda and Greg

8.) Other Business

Discussions:

1.) Accept minutes from 2/28/05 conference call

Documents distributed by Simon

2.a) Update on ACNS 2006 (Rob/Dave)

Things going ok. Not much movement to date, but everyone is aware of what needs to be done. Art Schultz is taking over the role of Jim Jorgensen.

2.b) APS update (Rob)

NSSA exhibit table was a success. A disappointment was the small number of facilities posters. RB apologized for dropping the ball on this at the last minute by contacting the facilities too late; things got very busy at the last minute.

3.) Use of NSSA name by BWXT (Rob)

The draft of the letter, stressing the importance of the neutron reactor national facilities, drafted by RB, was discussed. It now has no specific reference to the company BWXT so NSSA is not explicitly endorsing a single company. Everyone agreed that this letter could be sent as is in the current form.

4.) Office of Science funding (DOE) (Rob)

Office of science funding is set for a cut (of around 4%) in the President's budget request for 2006. Budget projections from DOE indicate that this will have a dramatic effect on facilities with up to 10% staff layoffs, instruments closed or not being brought online, sample environments and instrument flexibility curtailed or reduced, significantly reduced operations and ~1500 current users being denied access. The response of the NSSA should be to make the community aware and to advocate on behalf of all the neutron facilities. In response, RB has been in contact with American Physical Society to arrange an email campaign in support of DOE office of science. Also, a trip to Capitol Hill was discussed. RB, SJB and SB may go as may others. RB will distribute letters to the excom for comments and then set them up at the APS congressional action website after getting feedback.

5.) NSSA support of workshop on biological membranes (Felcher and Pynn, organizers). Update: Our proposal accepted to support their workshop for \$5k for student travel. (Rob)

Gian Felcher and Roger Pynn agreed to our conditions so we will go ahead as discussed.

6.) NSSA secure website/database (Simon)

SJB secured permission to use Michigan State University, Physics departmental servers to set up the NSSA secure website. He will use his student labor. NSSA will pay the hourly rate of the student. The functionality and form of the portal were discussed. It was decided to keep the portal as simple as possible to begin with. Some additional fields were suggested such as indicating service on a prize committee. SJB will go ahead and start to make something.

7.) Continued discussion of additional NSSA prizes (Simon and Susan)

Discussion of NSSA Fellows

Document circulated by Shenda and Greg

Table this discussion. The prize discussion was tabled last time, so needs to be a high priority item next time to converge it.

8.) Other Business

Call ended 12:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Simon Billinge, 4/4/05