

NSSA Executive Committee
Minutes of the conference phone call 12:00 pm ET, 9/14/05

Present on the conference call:

Dave Belanger (DB)
Rob Briber (RB)
Jim Jorgensen (JJ)
Susan Krueger (SK)
Franz Trouw (FT)

Missing:

Simon Billinge (SJB)
Shenda Baker (SB)
Greg Smith (GS)

Agenda

- 1.) Accept minutes from 8/11/05 conference call distributed by Simon (copy attached)**
- 2.) Report on meeting at O'Hare airport (Jim)**
- 2.) Update on ACNS 2006 (Rob)**
- 3.) NSSA elections (Rob)**
- 4.) Change in By-laws for Fellows (Dave/Shenda?)**
- 5.) NSSA Prize Committees (Rob)**

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Discussions:

- 1.) Accept minutes from 8/11/05 conference call distributed by Simon**

Accepted without dissent.

- 2.) Report on meeting at O'Hare airport (Jim)**

Jim made several points about the user meeting at O'Hare airport:

- a. A letter, signed by user group chairs and RB, was sent to Secretary Bodman urging DOE to increase funding for the DOE neutron and synchrotron light source facilities.
- b. There is a feeling that it is time to explore the current window of opportunity that seems to be open right now to enhance funding for the major DOE facilities, as there have been a number of recent events that are favorable to science, i.e.,

- i. Secretary Bodman is a scientist and likes science. He has a desire to increase the budgets at the big facilities to make them more accessible to users.
 - ii. The Energy bill signed by President Bush appoints an Undersecretary of Energy with a focus on research.
 - iii. It was suggested by Pat Dehmer that now is the time to push advocacy for science with Secretary Bodman and to express the needs of the scientific community.
- c. There was a long discussion of how the neutron and x-ray scattering communities can work together to focus on advocacy efforts. What should the role of NSSA be?
 - i. There was discussion of forming an oversight committee made up of representatives from user groups and the NSSA, perhaps modeled after the U.S. National Council for Crystallography. There were some questions as to how this committee would be funded.
 - ii. There was some discussion as to whether the synchrotron community should join NSSA, since there is no counterpart to NSSA for x-ray users. JJ said he discouraged such a move since the NSSA was still defining itself. NSSA's effectiveness in advocacy for the neutron scattering community was recognized.
 - iii. Stephen Goldman (formerly of OMB) gave a good presentation.
- d. JJ suggested that the next NSSA leadership might want to make advocacy its target activity. This could be their legacy. Others agreed.
- e. There will be a follow-up meeting at SLAC on October 17, 2005. JJ felt that a NSSA representative should be there due to possible discussions of a joint synchrotron/neutron society. JJ and/or DB will attend.

3.) Update on ACNS 2006 (Rob)

Everything progressing satisfactorily. Will not be seeking funding from NSF this time.

4.) NSSA elections (Rob and Jim)

There is a slate of candidates to run for each office. However, there is currently only one candidate for President. A 2nd candidate is needed. Elections will be held as soon as possible after a 2nd candidate for President is identified. The election will be handled by email ballot like it was the last time. FT will check to see if there is a web package that can be easily used. If not, FT volunteered to collect the emails. JJ will collect the candidate statements.

5.) Change in By-laws for Fellows (Dave)

DB revised by-laws to include NSSA fellows. Change must be approved by NSSA membership and will be voted on in next NSSA elections.

6.) NSSA Prize Committees (Rob)

Two prize committees composed of 3-5 people each are needed for the 1) Sustained and Science prizes and 2) the Shull prize. The prize committees will not have excom members. There should be an odd number of people on each committee and 5 people are

preferred. Each committee should be diverse in make-up with good representation in the areas of geography, gender and scientific area. Senior people should be asked to serve with the understanding that, if they are nominated for one of the prizes, the excom will replace them on the prize committee so they can accept the prize nomination. JJ suggested that the previous Shull Prize winner is a logical choice for the current Shull Prize committee.

Call ended 1:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Susan Krueger, 9/14/05