

NSSA Executive Committee
Minutes of the conference phone call 5/23/03

Present on the conference call:

Shenda Baker
Dave Belanger
Simon Billinge
Rob Briber
Jim Jorgensen

Greg Smith
Franz Trouw

Missing:

Susan Kreuger

Agenda:

1.) ACNS 2004 update (R.M. Briber and J. Jorgensen)

RMB needs formal approval from NSSA Executive Committee to sign contracts for ACNS 2004 with

- i.) University of Maryland Inn and Conference Center
- ii.) University of Maryland Department of Conference Planning

2.) Facilities Access Questionnaire (R.M. Briber and S. Billinge)

a.) NSSA plan for use of the results of the questionnaire (Pynn is done with it)

Ideas:

- write a letter to Facility Directors with the results of the survey
- Suggest results of Facilities Access Survey as a topic for next Facility Directors meeting?
- Role of Software Development for Data Acquisition/Visualization/off-site Collaboration
- Request NSSA participation on this topic (software) at next Facilities Directors meeting?
- Working Group on this topic? Session at ACNS2004?
- Other uses?

b.) Use of Questionnaire results by others –request by Brent Fultz (Caltech) has approached Simon about using the results in a proposal for funding for neutron scattering analysis software development. Any comments?

Request/confirm that he involve all facilities (esp. SNS)?

Roger Pynn supports the program Brent Fultz is proposing

3.) Shull Prize

- Status of endowment
- Investment of endowment
- Schedule for solicitation of nominations
- Committee for evaluation of nominations

4.) NSSA presence at ACA meeting

It is not clear that this will happen. No clear person to “take charge”. Need to think about this further in advance. Maybe need to track meetings with specific neutron scattering sessions.

5.) Other business

Discussions (action items in bold-italics):

1.) ACNS update:

- a. RB has contracts with both University of Maryland Inn and Conference Center and University of Maryland Department of Conference Planning. They seem satisfactory. RB will have them reviewed by the association lawyer before proceeding. RB requested permission to sign the contracts when they are satisfactory. Motion for the Executive committee to give permission to Robert Briber to sign contracts for the 2004 ACNS meeting: moved SJB, seconded SB, passed unanimously.
- b. Dates have been set – June 7-10th, 2004.
- c. Web-site will be set up and posted, hopefully by the end of the month.
- d. Program committee will be solidified and broadened.

2.) **Facility access questionnaire:** RB spoke to Mike Rowe and Roger Pynn about the questionnaire. Roger Pynn is essentially done with it, NSSA can use it how we want. Some suggestions were discussed. Mostly the feeling is that the results should be made available to facilities managers. There is expected to be a facilities managers’ meeting sometime in the future where it was proposed that a working group be proposed to be set up to make a prioritized wish-list for facilities remote-access. It was decided that initially the working group should be made up of Rob Briber, Simon Billinge and Franz Trouw. There was also discussion of involving Brent Fultz, who is leading a data-analysis software initiative associated with the ARCS spectrometer at SNS, and Ian Anderson of the SNS, in discussions. SJB requested clarification on who owns intellectual property on the results and who gives permission for use. NSSA owns the results which can be shared. If they are to be incorporated into another document such as a proposal this should be cleared by the executive committee and should be accompanied by a disclaimer, the wording of which was not decided at the current time. In any case, it shouldn’t be used until after the letter has been sent to the facilities managers.

3.) **Shull prize:** The Shull prize endowment is currently \$XXX which is inadequate for paying out a \$5000 prize every two years. The money can easily be found at present from operating costs. In view of this situation it was decided to wait before investing the existing funds. The guidelines for the prize were discussed. SB suggested some changes to emphasize contributions to the North American (including Canadian!) neutron scattering community. This will be iterated by email. Nominations can be made by NSSA members. A due date of 11/01/03 for nominations was decided.

4.) **NSSA presence at ACA meeting:** It was decided that an NSSA presence at various meetings was desirable, especially when special, neutron related, symposia were taking place. However, sufficient advance notice is required for

this to succeed. Also, a smaller version of the full booth presentation is desirable. RB will work on a poster that can be taken to meetings. It was also suggested that handouts be made; either cheap gizmos or paper handouts with the NSSA web-page on them.

Call ended at 11:45am.

Respectfully submitted

Simon Billinge, 6/10/03