

NSSA Executive Committee

**Minutes of the conference phone call 12:00pm ET, 7/11/06
(action items in red)**

Present on the conference call:

Simon Billinge (SJB)
Angus Wilkinson (AW)
Suzanne te Velthuis (StV)
Greg Smith (GS)
Brent Fultz (BF)
Shenda Baker (SB)

Missing:

Roger Pynn (RP)
John Root (JR)

Agenda

- 1) Approval of minutes of 6/13/06 teleconference call**
 - 2) ACNS**
 - 3) Strategic Plan**
 - 4) Review of action items from last minutes**
 - 5) Any other business**
 - 6) Set date for next call**
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Discussions

1) Approval of minutes of 6/13/06 teleconference call

This item will be postpone until next time, as not everyone has had time to review the minutes.

2) ACNS

SJB has received positive feedback from people about the ACNS conference.
GS has received 60 completed surveys, that were sent to the NSSA membership following the conference.

SJB: The local organizers are happy with the way the conference went. However there is a concern that the number of attendees was significantly decreased compared to previous conferences. This year there were about 380 registrants, as opposed to 475 two years ago in Maryland and 400 four years ago in Tennessee.

The number of students was also considerably less than in 2004, reduced by 30.

Could it be the location? Possibly the message that graduate students could get funding was not announced sufficiently. Next time this needs to be advertised better.

AW: We could have supported more students. Right now it looks like we will have a \$\$ surplus.

SJB: Lessons learned documents are being compiled by the organizers.

Action: These documents should be sent to StV, who will compile them for future use.

AW: If anyone wants to see the registration information, they should contact him.

SJB: Some talks from the meeting have been requested by others.

3) Strategic Plan

SB is updated on what was discussed during the ExecCom meeting held during the ACNS.

Further discussion will be postponed until a future conference call.

Action: RP will put together 1st draft of strategic plan.

SJB is interested in putting together a plan for the NSSA website, but is too busy right now. He expects to be able to put together a barebones plan in the fall.

StV has received a links to a web-site from Wouter Montfrooij (U. Missouri) which might be incorporated into the NSSA website.

Action: StV will forward this information to SJB

SB: It would be useful if the NSSA website has links to all the neutron facilities and their proposal submission information.

4) Review of action items from last minutes

Conflict of interest guidelines for the prize committee still need completing by JR

The Student Travel Program still needs to be announced to the membership.

SJB: One email announcing the Student Travel Program and Fellows program should be compiled and sent.

5) Any other business

GS: From evaluating the surveys about ACNS, it was noticeable that the opinions about the advocacy sessions were very polarized. Many were surprised to learn about how the political system works.

BS: In the presentations there was much focus on visits to Washington to speak to representatives by scientist. Maybe in the future also information about what a scientist can do locally might be included.

6) Set date for next call

The next teleconf call is set for: **Monday** August 7th 2006, 12 Noon ET

Call ended 12:41pm ET

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne te Velthuis, 7/20/06.