

NSSA Executive Committee

Modified Minutes of the conference phone call at 1pm EST, 9/08/2009

(action items in red (items from previous meeting) and blue (items from this meeting))

Present on the conference call:

Shenda Baker (SB)

Jaime Fernandez-Baca (JFB)

Bruce Gaulin (BG)

Thomas Proffen (TP)

Norm Wagner (NW)

Angus Wilkinson (AW)

Simon Billinge (SJB)

Missing:

Roger Pynn (RP)

John Tranquada (JT)

Suzanne te Velthuis (StV)

Flora Meilleur (FM)

~~*Simon Billinge (SJB)*~~

Agenda

- 1) Approval of minutes of 8/11/2009 teleconference call
- 2) Update on prize and fellowship committees
- 3) Student Prize
- 4) ACNS10
- 5) Review of action items from last minutes
- 6) Any other business
- 7) Set data for next call

Discussions

1) Approval of minutes of 8/11/2009 teleconference call

The minutes are approved

2) Update on prize and fellowship committees

The call for fellowship nominations has been sent out on August 24 and again on September 9. The deadline for nominations is October 9. To date, the chair of the fellowships committee, Sunny Sinha, has received 9 nominations. We may wish to consider if we should extend the deadline for nominations.

The complement of the Shull Prize and Sustained Research/Science Prize selection committees are almost set. **BG has contacted Ed Kramer as the potential last**

remaining member of the Shull Prize committee, but he has yet to respond. The call for nominations for these three prizes will be made presently.

3) Student Prize

BG put together a draft document which suggested replacing the “Outstanding Student Research Prize” with two prizes:

1- NSSA prize for Outstanding Research by a Young Scientist

Which would be adjudicated by a selection committee on the basis of a nomination made by a nominator, with a supporting letter of recommendation. The nomination would consist of the nominating and supporting letters, a cv listing publications and relevant experience and copies of up to three representative publications. As originally suggested, eligible candidates would have to be no more than 3 years past PhD at the time of the ACNS meeting at which the award would be made.

2- ACNS 2010 Outstanding Student Poster Presentation Prizes

Two prizes would be awarded for work performed by a student no more than 2 years past PhD at the time of the relevant ACNS award. The prizes would be awarded on the basis of selection by a panel of judges chaired by the Program Committee Co-Chairs, who would visit the competing posters and rank them. The prizes would be awarded for work performed in different sub-disciplines within neutron scattering.

This proposal was distributed to the NSSA Executive committee prior to the teleconference. StV submitted a written counter proposal which was discussed during the teleconference along with the original proposal. StV indicated that she intended to vote against the initial proposal, if such a vote came up.

Following extensive discussion, the original proposal was modified according to:

- 1- The proposed “NSSA prize for Outstanding Research by a Young Scientist” would revert to the original student prize name: “NSSA Prize for Outstanding Student Research”.
- 2- The eligible candidates would be *current PhD students or* no more than 2 years past PhD at the time of the ACNS at which the award is made.
- 3- Separate “ACNS Outstanding Student Poster Presentation Prizes” would be awarded as proposed, however the number and area of specialization would not be prescribed. Rather, the number of such prizes would be not *normally* greater than 3, allowing the panel of judges some flexibility to recognize the strength of the competition.

The modified proposal was moved (BG), seconded (TP) and voted on 5 in favor, 1 against. The dissenting vote was ascribed to StV’s written instructions. The motion PASSES.

4) ACNS 2010

Steady progress continues to be made with regard to ACNS 2010. The Program Co-Chairs have circulated their suggestions for Program Committee Members. **The NSSA Executive Committee needs to finalize our feedback on their recommendations.** Options are also currently being explored for the ACNS banquet location.

5) Review of Action Items from Last Teleconference:

5a) Previous item 7a (Shull Prize & Sustained Research/Science Prize).
The call for nominations should be sent out after Labor day 2009
This has yet to be done. BG, JFB and StV will act on immediately.

5b) Previous item 7b (Fellowships).
The call for nominations should go out immediately
Done

5c) Previous item 7c (transferring information to new ExecCom members). TP has the bylaw texts from the email AW sent earlier, so StV no longer needs to send them to him.
RP will look through NSSA boxes he has and give anything relevant to BG.
Not done, but RP has looked through material and none appears to be so important.

5d) Previous item 7d (Website). **StV will send TP document that need updating on the NSSA website. In the future TP will propose a plan on how to proceed with the website.**
Good progress made.

5e) Previous item 7e (legacy, increase membership). The membership form on the website is not working. **TP will disable this page and provide information on how to contact JFB instead.**
??

5f) Previous item 7e (legacy, increase membership) It is discussed how to keep the membership lists current. **JFB will make a proposal.** AW suggests that if we want to use an outside agency we should talk to other societies (MRS).
Not sure where this stands.

5g) Previous item 7e (legacy, increase membership) **BG will talk to Neutron News about a deal with them to have Neutron News for our membership for free or at a reduced rate.**
Not done yet.

5h) Previous item 7e (legacy, increase membership). Besides talking to NCNR, BG has also talked to Judy Trimble (ORNL) about the possibility of having users get information about NSSA. She thought a pro-active choice (a box to be checked off) in the proposal process might be possible.
BG will officially write to the facilities asking to implement this. He will request that there is a checkbox that users can check if they want information about the NSSA.
BG has written to admin of ORNL, NIST, and LANL. To date BG has heard back from LANL who are approaching DOE BES for direction.

5i) Previous item 8 (AOB) **BG will follow up with the advocacy contacts at APS that Judy Franz gave him, to see what they suggest regarding possible advocacy actions.**
Not yet done.

6) Any other business

TP described the contact he has had with the webdesign company MayeCreate Design of Columbia MO. He described the interaction and expressed confidence that this company understood the needs of the NSSA in broad terms. A contract would be required which would entail a down payment and total expenditures of \$7125. TP inquired as to whether he should hold discussions with additional companies and secure additional quotes. After some discussion the NSSA executive voted to accept the MayeCreate quotation, on the basis of the confidence TP had expressed in them and the amount of time he had already invested in this process. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

7) Set data for next call

Tuesday October 6th, 1pm EST.

Submitted, Bruce D. Gaulin, 10/05/09.

Modified, Suzanne te Velthuis, 11/10/09.