

NSSA Executive Committee

Minutes of the conference phone call 11:00am ET, 10/03/03

(action items in bold red)

Present on the conference call:

Dave Belanger
Simon Billinge
Rob Briber
Susan Kreuger
Franz Trouw
Greg Smith

Missing:

Jim Jorgensen
Shenda Baker

Agenda

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

2.) Shull Prize (R.M. Briber)

Request for nominations letter has gone out (did everyone receive it?)

Nominations are starting to arrive.

3.) Student Award (R.M. Briber)

Mike Rowe at NIST indicated that he is willing to fund (from his own pocket) an award for best student paper (talk/poster) at the ACNS. He is thinking of donating \$2500 (good for a \$500 award for 5 conferences/10 years) for the award. He will leave it up to the NSSA to decide how to implement it, but he would like to make the donation in this calendar year (he will be retiring in December).

a.) Should the NSSA accept the funds to establish the student prize to be awarded at the ACNS?

b.) Proposed award name:

"NSSA Student Award" (originally enabled by a donation from Michael J. Rowe)

"Michael J. Rowe Award"

other suggestions/ideas?

c.) It is up to the NSSA to determine the details of the award.

Suggestion for discussion:

- Talk/poster under consideration must be on thesis work
- Person can have defended their Ph.D. a maximum of 1 year from start of ACNS conference.
- Box/Certification on abstract submission form for student to indicate submission should be considered for award and that work presented meets criteria.

Then we would need a committee (3 or 4 of the program committee members is one possibility) who would listen to and/or visit the talk/poster for each submission and vote. The award could be announced at lunch on Wed (or some other appropriate time towards the end of the conference). Jeff Lynn (Chairman of program committee) is aware that the program will need to be arranged so that all student papers under consideration can be

reviewed early in the meeting.

Comments?

4. Any news on plaques, glass sculptures, etc. (Shenda Baker)

We will need plaques (or alternatives) for the Shull prize, the proposed student prize and former exec. Committee members.

5. Other business

Discussions:

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

Everything going fine. Banquet will be in the hotel; sad but necessary due to cost and number constraints on the museum location. Hoping to get Bill Frist as after dinner speaker; RB has a list of backups to go-to. DB has written a proposal to get NSF funding. **RB and the rest of the EXCOM should read and send comments asap.**

JJ is working on BES funding and not here to report. It seems they are hedging and will underwrite any shortfall from other funds rather than give directly, but actual disposition unclear without update from JJ. Jack Rush is contacting NIH. Apparently they are receptive to the idea despite the fact that only 12/50,000 NIH proposals involve neutrons. Jack Rush knows who at NIH to talk to; outcome unclear.

Canadians are still unconfirmed but likely to give \$, all other facilities' contributions are assured, though no money has arrived (DB). SB summarized activities of the program committee. Sorting categories are set, sub-committee members for each sorting category have been identified and invited; many already have accepted. The Categories are: Chemistry and Materials, Biology, Engineering and Applications, Instrumentation and Facilities (?), Soft matter, Condensed matter physics, fundamental physics. On the program front, question-marks remain about what, if any, tutorials will be had. SK mentioned that NIST is tussling with what to do about their annual neutron summer school which would normally be close in dates to the meeting.

2.) Shull Prize (R.M. Briber)

Two nominations have arrived. GS mentioned that he knows of a couple more that are being worked on. RB hoping for ~6 good applications.

3.) Student Award (R.M. Briber)

Extensive and producting discussions on this issue summarized (hopefully well) as follows:

- a. Unanimous vote to accept Mike Rowe's generous offer
- b. Nature of the award: a general award for graduate and undergraduate students, and for post-docs within 2 years of graduation who are presenting their Ph.D thesis work. Award rewards outstanding research involving neutron scattering, as judged based on presentation at the ACNS meeting in a special prize-poster session. To be eligible, students presenting orally will have to also present the work as a poster in the prize-poster session. This format facilitates and makes fairer the judging process. It also provides a forum for students seeking jobs and employers seeking to fill jobs to get together.
- c. Naming of Society prizes: after extensive discussion the sense was that the society should actively encourage donations to create prizes, especially

for (but not limited to) young researchers. The policy should be that prize names should reflect the contribution of the prize-winner and should not be named for the donor, though the donor's name should be clearly acknowledged in the prize statement. Accordingly, the first student prize will be named the "NSSA prize for outstanding student research". Future donations for prizes could be general (for example, enabling a second student prize to be awarded) or could be directed (for example a student prize for chemistry/spallation neutrons/whatever) with the wishes of the donor in this regard being of great importance.

- d. Endowing a prize: What constitutes a full endowment was briefly discussed. Fully endowing a prize is costly and difficult, especially if growth of the endowment to protect against inflation is included. An alternative paradigm that seems attractive is simply to use the capital; rather than interest earned on the endowment, to pay the prize. In this way the prize lasts for a fixed amount of time until the money runs out. A positive aspect of this is that prizes come and go dynamically and can better reflect changing directions and priorities in the field.
- e. Prize itself: people are enthusiastic that a cut-glass prize is much nicer than the traditional teak and brass offering. Unfortunately SB had left the call so couldn't comment on results of her research into this. FT mentioned that he will speak with graphic designers at LANL about getting an attractive design to put on the glass.

4.) **Other business:** none

Call ended 12:10pm

Respectfully submitted, Simon Billinge, 10/03/03