

**NSSA Executive Committee  
Conference Call Minutes, 09/09/15**

**Katharine Page (Secretary), 09/15/15**

**Present:** Stephan Rosenkranz (SR)  
Patrick Woodward (PW)  
Katharine Page (KP)  
Norm Wagner (NW)  
Chris Wiebe (CW)  
Mike Crawford (MC)  
Matthew Helgeson (MH)  
Ron Jones (RJ)

**Absent:** Mark Lumsden (ML)  
Megan Robertson (MR)

**Agenda:**

- 1) Adoption of minutes from 07/14/15 (KP/SR/All)
- 2) Date for next conference call (SR/KP/All)
- 3) Letter to NCNR / Lujan follow-up (SR/ML)
- 4) MRS sponsoring update (SR/MC)
- 5) AONSA/ECNS/NSSA meeting (SR)
- 6) Student/postdoc member at large (SR/All)
- 7) ACNS 2016 planning update (PW)
- 8) 2016 prize committees (PW)
- 9) NSSA finance summary (MC)
- 10) AOB

**Discussion Minutes (by agenda item number):**

**1. Approval of minutes (KP/SR/All)**

The minutes from 07/14/15 were adopted with no corrections and no objections.

**2. Date for next conference call (SR/KP/All)**

It was agreed that the date and time for the next conference call will be Wednesday, October 21, at 10 AM Central Time.

**3. Neutron Source Closures / Dehmer letter / NCNR User Group Post (SR/ML)**

No action has been taken since the July conference call. SR plans to follow up on the following actions this month: (1) check in with Albert Young, the new chair of the LANSCE User Group (LUG); (2) write a letter to the director of NIST (Willy May) expressing enthusiasm and thanks for his support of NCNR in the face of potential Department of Commerce funding increases; and (3) draft a letter on behalf of NSSA to Dr. Patricia Dehmer (Deputy Director for Science Programs at Office of Science, U.S.

Department of Energy) discussing the declining trend in the number of neutron scattering facilities in the world and urging the U. S. to begin building new neutron sources.

#### **4. MRS sponsoring update (NW/MC)**

NW updated the status of NSSA sponsorship at the MRS Fall Meeting Symposium BBB (Liquids and Glassy Soft Materials--Theoretical and Neutron Scattering Studies). NSSA literature and a sign-up sheet will be provided. The symposium sponsorship will be announced/acknowledged daily by the session chair and new members will be encouraged to sign up.

#### **5. AONSA/ECNS/NSSA meeting (SR)**

A reserve the date flier is nearly finalized for ACNS 2016. Invitations to the AONSA/ECNS/NSSA meeting for neutron scattering society presidents will be considered as soon as the meeting schedule is finalized.

#### **6. Student/postdoc member at large (SR/All)**

KP sent the two received CVs for graduate student/ postdoctoral associate member at large nominations to the committee for review. It was decided that both candidates will be asked to join as members at large ( [REDACTED] ). The new members will be invited for a two year term. It was agreed that the bylaws may need to be updated to clarify the roles and terms of the student/postdoc members at large.

#### **7. ACNS 2016 planning update (PW/All)**

Prof. Alexie Sokolov and Prof. Despina Louca have agreed to be the program chairs of the ACNS 2016 meeting. PW, SR, and KP participated in a conference call with them and the MRS staff last week to discuss action items. PW reported that the topical areas will be the same as they were for the 2014 meeting (Plenary & Prize Sessions, Sources, Instrumentation and Software, Hard Condensed Matter, Soft Matter, Biology, Materials Chemistry and Materials for Energy, Engineering and Industrial Applications, and Neutron Physics). The program chairs are inviting sub-chairs for each topical area, and nominations for invited speakers to sessions will be solicited in middle October. It was noted that ML needs to update the NSSA website to point to the ACNS 2016 meeting site (<http://www.mrs.org/acns-2016/>). It was also noted that financial support requests to the Neutron Scattering Department of Energy Program Manager (Dr. Thiyaga P. Thiyagarajan) and the North American Neutron Scattering facility directors will need to be made in the near future. SR plans to ask Thiyaga in an upcoming conference call about the formal procedure. A DOE request was written by [REDACTED] in past years. The NIST request was handled previously by [REDACTED]. NW and RJ agreed to contact her regarding the NIST funding request. CW will inquire about funding from Canadian Nuclear Laboratories to support Canadian Student Travel. SR will contact ORNL management regarding sponsorship by the Neutron Science Directorate there. SR will also contact [REDACTED], the new group leader at LANL for LANSCE Weapons Physics and inquire about LANL interest in meeting sponsorship. The Lujan Center at LANL had agreed to support the meeting in 2014, but no funds were transferred. PW plans to ask the National Science

Foundation Division of Materials Research Director (Linda S. Sapochak) and the CHRNS director ( [REDACTED] ) if NSF will consider supporting the meeting.

### **8. 2016 Prize Committees (PW)**

The 2016 prize committees are partly formed. MH, chair of the Student Prize Committee, confirmed the participation of Surita Bhatia from Stonybrook University, Megan Robertson from the University of Houston, Jamie Neilson from Colorado State University, and Craig Brown from NIST. NW, chair of 2016 NSSA Fellow selection, has confirmed the participation of five current NSSA fellows: Julie Borchers, Colin Broholm, Bruce Gaulin, Thomas Russell, and Gregory Smith. SR will contact the remaining chairs and provide a list of nominees for the committees. Sunil Sinha (UCSD) will chair the Schull Prize Committee.

[REDACTED] . Jeff Lynn (National Institute of Standards and Technology) will chair the Science Prize Committee. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] . SR will contact the committee chairs with documentation detailing the prize committee responsibilities and procedures. A call for nominations will be sent out in October with deadlines in December. SR plans to update the conflict of interest guidelines posted on the NSSA website (<http://neutronsattering.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/COI-NSSA-2012.pdf>). Specifically, item 3 explaining an instance that a Selection Committee Member shall step off the Committee will be removed. Item 3 states, "The Selection Committee Member is a nominator of a particular nominee for a prize or fellowship which is the subject of their Selection Committee." The first two items will remain in effect.

### **9. NSSA Finance Summary (MC)**

MC completed the NSSA tax return in August. The Tax Information Return was sent to ML to post online. 2013, 2014, and 2015 need to be posted (the 2012 return is currently the most recent available online). SR sent an email to the Materials Research Society regarding payment for the ACNS 2014 meeting (funds of approximately \$22K are still outstanding).

### **10. AOB**

CW (president of Canadian Institute for Neutron Scattering, CINS) provided an update on Canada's plans to address the forthcoming 2018 closure of the National Research Universal (NRU) reactor operations at the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL). An preliminary agreement was reached between a consortium of government and university partners to establish a Neutron Scattering Institute in Saskatoon with a \$10M-\$20M budget. The consortium is searching for a group leader, and aims to support five to ten researchers focused on x-ray work in Saskatoon, neutron scattering work abroad, and realizing a new reactor facility in Canada. Discussions of long range plans for a new nuclear reactor in Canada continue, with Saskatchewan planning for a \$200M Opal-style research reactor. CW also reported that the management of Chalk River has been taken over by the Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL).

It was pointed out a number of NSSA website updates are needed (ACNS 2016 website link, prize committee member lists, 2013-2015 tax returns, new/updated members at large, updated news and events). A list of these requests will be sent to ML.

## Action items

| Item Number | Person Responsible | Action item  | Agenda date (mo/yr) | Agenda Item # for next meeting |
|-------------|--------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1           | SR                 | Follow up with Albert Young regarding LANSCE User Group (LUG) news.  | 05/15               | 3                              |
| 2           | SR                 | Letter to Patricia Dehmer urging reinvestment in neutron sources.<br>Letter to Willy Mays applauding NCNR support.   | 05/15               | 3                              |
| 3           | SR                 | Send invitations to AONSA and ECNS delegations for a meeting of neutron scattering society presidents at the ACNS 2016 meeting.  | 05/15               | 4                              |
| 4           | SR                 | Invite ██████████ ██████████ to participate in NSSA executive committee as postdoctoral members-at-large for two year terms.   | 09/15               | 5                              |
| 5           | SR/NW/RJ/CW/PW     | Request funds for ACNS 2016 from DOE (SR), NIST (NW/RJ), CNL (CW), ORNL NScD (SR), LANSCE Weapons Physics (SR), and NSF/CHRNS (PW).                                    | 09/15               | 6                              |
| 6           | PW/SR              | Work with chairs of 2016 Prize Committees to select and confirm committee members. Send Prize Committee Documentation and update Conflict of Interest Guidelines (SR). | 07/15               | 7                              |
| 7           | SR/MC              | Follow up on transfer of ACNS 2014 funds from MRS (SR/MC).   | 07/15               | 9                              |

|   |    |  |       |    |
|---|----|--|-------|----|
| 8 | ML | Update NSSA website with ACNS 2016 website link, prize committee member lists, 2013-2015 tax returns, new/updated members at large, etc. | 09/15 | NA |
|---|----|--|-------|----|