

NSSA Executive Committee
Minutes of the conference phone call at 3pm EST, 2/9/2010
(action items in red)

Present on the conference call:

Bruce Gaulin (BG)
Simon Billinge (SJB)
Suzanne te Velthuis (StV)
John Tranquada (JT)
Jaime Fernandez-Baca (JFB)
Thomas Proffen (TP)
Shenda Baker (SB)
Flora Meilleur (FM)
Norm Wagner (NW)
Roger Pynn (RP)
Angus Wilkinson (AW)

Agenda

- 1) Approval of minutes of 1/12/2010 teleconference call**
- 2) Set date for next call**
- 3) Update on Fellowship and Prizes**
- 4) Student prizes**
- 5) ACNS 2010**
 - 5a) Abstract acceptance policy**
 - 5b) Plenary/keynote session & advocacy session**
 - 5c) other**
- 6) Website**
- 7) Service Awards**
- 8) Review of action items from last minutes**
- 9) Any other business**

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Discussions

Agenda

- 1) Approval of minutes of 1/12/2010 teleconference call**
The minutes are approved.

6) Website

TP gives an update on the progress of the new website.

JFB will send TP the spreadsheet with membership information, so it can be incorporated into the new web-site's database. A flag or a date will be attached to each entry indicating whether the information is old or updated by the member.

In about a week, TP will send an email with a link to the new site so we can see the progress made.

Links regarding ACNS in general should be to the Canadian conference site, as this should act at the front page to the ACNS.

The ExecCom will discuss the content of the website in a broader sense at a later date. RP suggests dedicating a conference call to it in the future. BG suggests also looking at different society websites. **TP will do a survey of relevant websites and come with suggestions.**

2) Set date for next call

March 9th, 2010 at 3:30pm EST.

3) Update on Fellowship and Prizes

Prizes

BG will work with prize committees on putting together the text for the press releases and send to TP, who will prepare the press release itself.

TP will send the final version to JFB to send to membership.

StV will send TP a mailing list of people & organizations for the press release.

BG announces the names of the prize winners to the ExecCom. The winners have been notified and the committees have been thanked for their work.

Fellowship

BG contacted Sunil Sinha and told him the committee could approve up to 14 people. In response the committee has decided upon 13 of the nominees.

SB raises the issue that most of the people on the list are affiliated with facilities. Discussed is how in the future more diversity among the nominees can be achieved. One way that is suggested is by engaging the user offices of facilities and the user groups.

StV will send the past congratulatory letter as a template to BG who will inform the fellows.

JFB will send out the press release to the membership when he has received it.

4) Student prizes

BG has not had a chance to finalize the wording regarding the new student prizes. Due to the limited time until the ACNS it is decided to delay until the next ACNS. At the ACNS 2010 the new prizes will be announced only.

Instead at ACNS 2010 the same prize (NSSA Prize for Outstanding Student Research) as in the past 3 years will be awarded. To enable this:

SJB will have ACNS website mention the prizes.

SJB will have a check box added to the abstract (or registration) submission process to allow students to have their contribution considered for the prize.

SJB will have MRS send out an email highlighting student support for the ACNS, which includes the prizes and travel grants.

5) ACNS 2010

5a) Abstract acceptance policy

Crank or non-genuine abstracts have been submitted now and in the past to the ACNS. We currently do not have a policy in place for dealing with such abstracts as generally all abstracts are accepted. RP suggests that the program sub-committees, when sorting through the abstracts, send the ExecCom abstracts that they find questionable or do not understand. We do not want abstracts that do not represent a serious scientific contribution.

Motion: We will institute a “questionable abstract committee” that program sub-committees can refer abstracts to. This committee will have the final say regarding acceptance”.

Vote: None oppose, motion accepted.

The committee members will be: BG, RP, NW.

5b) Plenary/keynote session & advocacy session

BG, RP and NW did not have their conference call but NW has sent a short list. BG will discuss the various names with John Root. **The sub-committee will get together soon and present a short list to the ExecCom.**

5c) other

The proposal to DOE was completed and has had feedback from DOE, but still needs a list of speakers. The lists of invited speakers are not due back from the program sub-committees until the end of February, but this is too late for the proposal. SJB will send an email to sub-committee chairs asking for 1-2 names of likely invited speakers before then.

7) Service Awards

Not discussed

8) Review of action items from last minutes

Listed are incomplete actions items from the last minutes. Other action items were completed or already discussed during this call.

8a) Previous item 5a (Prizes)

- **BG should inform the chairs they should thank the nominators** once the selection process is over and announcements have been made.

8b) Previous item 5d (transferring information to new ExecCom members). RP has looked through NSSA boxes none appears to be so important. **He has still to give them to BG.**

8c) Previous item 5e (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.**

8d) Previous item 5f (AOB). **BG will follow up with the advocacy contacts at APS that Judy Franz gave him.**

9) Any other business

The ^3He workshop was cancelled due to bad weather. Once a new date is set, we will discuss who is to represent NSSA.

Submitted, Suzanne te Velhuis, 5/13/10.