

**NSSA Executive Committee
Conference Call Minutes, 03/17/15**

Katharine Page (Secretary), 03/18/15

Present: Stephan Rosenkranz (SR)
Patrick Woodward (PW)
Katharine Page (KP)
Mike Crawford (MC)
Mark Lumsden (ML)
Chris Wiebe (CW)
Norm Wagner (NW)

Absent: Ron Jones (RJ)

Agenda:

- 1) Adoption of minutes from 02/17/15 (KP/SR/All)
- 2) Date for next conference call (SR/KP/All)
- 3) LANSCE / NRU follow up (SR/CW/All)
- 4) March meeting update (SR/ML)
- 5) MRS and Gordon conference sponsoring update (SR/MC)
- 6) Members at large (SR/All)
- 7) ACNS 2016 planning update (PW/All)
- 8) AOB

Discussion Minutes (by agenda item number):

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

The minutes from 02/17/15 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 Monday, April 20, at 11 AM Central Time.

3. LANSCE / NRU follow up (SR/CW/All)

SR has drafted a letter on behalf of NSSA to Kurt Schoenberg outlining the importance of continued user program operations at the Lujan Center. The letter will be sent in the next few days. SR is drafting a second letter on the subject to Pat Dehmer.

CW gave a brief update on the Canadian government's recent decision to halt National Research Universal (NRU) reactor operations in 2018. The Canadian Institute for Neutron Scattering, CINS, has published a long range plan for meeting Canada's neutron scattering needs in the future. CINS is focusing efforts on investigating what kind of reactor is most appropriate for the country and how best

to keep key personnel in Canada. Discussions are ongoing. A bidding process has started for a research style reactor in Saskatoon. Meetings are being held with politicians and community members to share information. A number of universities and companies are preparing competing bids for research reactor projects and accelerator based options continue to be evaluated. There are no specific requests for NSSA support at this time.

SR shared that NSSA received a request to sponsor a letter writing campaign to the Department of Commerce in support of NCNR funding increases at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Encouragingly, the fiscal year 2016 budget request from the department of Commerce includes a \$11M increase for the NCNR reactor. There was consensus that a letter writing campaign should fall under the responsibilities of the NIST user group. MC suggested a single letter of support from the NSSA Executive Committee be written to Willie May, both the Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and the Acting Director of NIST, expressing the importance of neutron research and thanking the Department and NIST for continued support of the neutron scattering community. It was pointed out that such letters have been written in the past. SR will contact the chair of the NIST user group and discuss these conclusions.

4. March meeting update (SR/ML)

It was reported that the NSSA booth at APS 2015 March Meeting was set up by NW and run successfully by NSSA Executive Committee and member volunteers. Approximately 30 new NSSA members were recruited at the meeting. ML reported the booth materials have not yet been returned.

5. MRS and Gordon conference sponsoring update (SR/MC)

MC reported payments were made for sponsorship to both the MRS Fall Meeting Symposium BBB (Liquids and Glassy Soft Materials--Theoretical and Neutron Scattering Studies) and the inaugural Gordon Research Conference on Neutron Scattering. SR will follow up with organizers to confirm NSSA acknowledgement is made at the meetings. The opportunity to offer an NSSA booth at the MRS Fall meeting in December was mentioned. It was discussed that manpower for setup and staffing may be problematic. NW offered to distribute pamphlets for NSSA at the symposium and conference venue.

6. Members at large (SR/All)

It was agreed that soft matter and biological material neutron scattering representatives would favorably complement the make-up of the Executive Committee. [REDACTED] at UC Santa Barbara and [REDACTED] at University of Houston were discussed as suitable candidates. NW confirmed his willingness to remain on the Executive Committee as a member at large. It was mentioned that three members at large have worked well in the past, but there could be benefits in having more. KP inquired if student members have ever been considered. It was discussed that the number of members at large specified by the NSSA bylaws is vague, suggesting the language may need to be revisited. SR will contact [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to inquire about their interest in serving on the Executive Committee. The topic will be continued at the next meeting.

7. ACNS 2016 planning update (PW/All)

Plans for the 2016 ACNS Conference in the Southern California region were discussed. SR, PW, and KP participated in a conference call with Brent Fultz and MRS staff on March 11. PW provided a summary of the discussion, mainly focused on the conference location and date options. The main considerations for location are proximity to airports, venue cost, and local attendance base. The attendance of the meeting is expected to be lower since the meeting will not be located close to a neutron source. Three venues of strong possibility include the Hilton in Long Beach, the Queen Mary in Long Beach, and a resort location in San Diego. The Queen Mary is additionally being considered as a banquet venue. Potential dates include the last 2 weeks of June or the week following July 4. MRS will return with researched options for venues and dates in April. It was discussed that dormitory housing may not be easily arranged for students in Los Angeles, and reduced conference fees and travel subsidies should be considered. Group outings to the Getty Center or other attractions may be considered in place of the popular end of conference experimental facility tour.

Program chairs will need to be selected for ACNS 2016 in the near future. Typically one is chosen for condensed matter expertise and one is selected for soft matter expertise. Committee members should send suggestions to KP to be included in the reminder message for next meeting. PW will compile and share a list of past program chairs.

MRS staff provided an estimate of \$15,000 in outstanding funds from the 2014 ACNS meeting during the March 11 conference call. SR will request a report of funds and transfer of balance from the MRS.

8. AOB

None raised.

Action items

Item Number	Person Responsible	Action item	Agenda date (mo/yr)	Agenda Item # for next meeting
1	SR/All	LANSCE follow-up (Dehmer, Schoenberg letters)	05/14 (modified 11/14)	3
2	SR	Contact NIST user group regarding letter campaign to Department of Commerce	03/15	4
3	SR	Follow up with Fall MRS and Gordon Conference symposium organizers regarding sponsorship recognition	03/15	5
4	SR	Approach [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] regarding interest in joining the Executive Committee as members at large	03/15	6
5	SR/MC	Follow up on transfer of ACNS 2014 funds from MRS	01/15	7
6	PW/KP/All	Send suggested candidates for ACNS program chairs to KP (All) Compile list of past program chairs (PW) Include list of potential program chairs in reminder for next meeting (KP)	03/15	7