NSSA Executive Committee Conference Call Minutes, 01/13/16

Katharine Page (Secretary), 02/23/16

Present: Doug Godfrin (DG)

Matthew Helgeson (MH) Katharine Page (KP) Stephan Rosenkranz (SR) Harlyn Silverstein (HS) Chris Wiebe (CW) Patrick Woodward (PW)

Mark Lumsden (ML) Norm Wagner (NW) Mike Crawford (MC)

Absent: Ron Jones (RJ)

Megan Robertson (MR)

Agenda: 1) Adoption of minutes from 12/09/15 (KP/SR/AII)

2) Date for next conference call (SR/KP/All)3) Letters to Dehmer and Willy May (SR)4) ACNS 2016 planning update (PW)

5) 2016 NSSA prizes/fellows (SR)6) AONSA/ECNS/NSSA meeting (SR)

7) New members and webpage updates (RJ/ML)

8) AOB

Discussion Minutes (by agenda item number):

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

The minutes from 12/09/15 were adopted with no corrections and no objections.

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

The date and time for the next conference call was agreed to be Wednesday, February 24, at 10 AM Central Time.

3. ACNS 2016 planning update (PW)

PW provided updates on the status of ACNS 2016. There is a conference planning call scheduled for tomorrow (1/14/2016) with the organizing committee. The abstract submission site is open and will remain open until March 7. The conference chairs are planning on sharing the invited speaker list with the NSSA executive committee next week. The Materials Research Society had reported that the submitted Department of Energy funding requests from NIST and ORNL are still being evaluated.

The topic of after-dinner speakers was discussed at some length.

4. 2016 NSSA prizes / fellows (SR)

The 2016 NSSA Prize and Fellow Nomination deadline was December 1 and the award committees are in various stages of the selection process. NW shared a list of ten ACNS Fellow selectees. There were no objections to the list. A secondary list of four additional candidates was also discussed. The selection committee was split on the order of these four. The prize winners of the Schull and Sustained Research prizes automatically become NSSA Fellows. With one-thousand-four-hundred-and-twenty registered NSSA members, fourteen Fellows may be selected at most. Thus the executive committee advocated for holding the Fellow selectees at the original list of ten. SR will contact the elected Fellows with congratulations. NW will provide citations for the Fellowship awards. Many nomination submissions included a suggested citation and it was noted that the fellowship and prize nominations should require a citation with submission in future years.

MH reported on the status of the Student Prize selection. The committee has narrowed the field to two candidates. They will hold a teleconference next week to make a final decision.

SR reported that the Science Prize and Schull Prize awardees have not yet been selected. Results are expected next week.

ML and SR will prepare a press release when the selections are completed. KP will order award plaques when the selectees and citations are finalized. Jaime Fernandez-Baca, ML, and MC have information on past award plaque orders.

5. Letters to Dehmer and Willy May (SR)

SR plans to send a letter to the Department of Energy expressing concern over the decline of neutron scattering facilities in North America in the next two weeks. He plans to send a copy of the letter to Pat Dehmer. SR will also send a letter to Willi May, expressing enthusiasm and thanks for his support of NCNR.

It was discussed that the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (BESAC) has again been charged with prioritizing BES user facilities, with a focus towards new upgrades and new facilities. BESAC will meet in February and provide a full report by June. The Second Target Station was discussed in this light. It was agreed the overall importance of neutron scattering facilities should be stressed by the community.

6. AONSA/ENSA/NSSA meeting (SR)

A joint AONSA/ENSA/NNSA meeting is planned for ACNS 2016. AONSA leadership has already accepted an informal invitation. ENSA leadership has still not replied. A date and meeting time will be set up when the ACNS agenda is drafted and formal invitations will be sent to neutron scattering society participants thereafter.

7. New members and webpage updates

It was noted that the NSSA webpage is in need of updating to reflect the new student/postdoc committee members. It was also noted that the student travel grant page may be outdated. The MRS should be handling student travel grant requests for the ACNS meeting. PW and KP will ask about this during the ACNS planning meeting.

8. AOB

It was noted that there was a very nice report provided by the organizers of the NSSA-sponsored MRS Fall Meeting Symposium BBB: *Liquids and Glassy Soft Materials – Theoretical and Neutron Scattering Studies*. ML will post the report to the NSSA webpage.

SR brought up the topic of NSSA Service Awards, and nominated the service to the Society. The committee unanimously agreed. SR will prepare citations for the awards and invite Julie and Norm to attend the ACNS meeting in June.

CW (president of the Canadian Institute for Neutron Scattering, CINS) provided an update on the status of neutron scattering in Canada. The Chalk River reactor will be shut down in 2018 and the neutron scattering community, several government agencies, and several universities have been positioning to pursue a new reactor and to address the impending 'neutron gap' in Canada. Discussions have been held with the head of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI), and several universities. Current discussion is centered on addressing the 'neutron gap' with a \$35M yearly budget, as well as a potential 2017 proposal call for a new neutron source with a \$500M to \$2B budget. The interim plan may include upgrading McMaster, transferring some instruments to other facilities, investing in new instruments at ORNL and NIST, and funding jobs for Canadians at those facilities. Canada invested in several instruments at ORNL and these programs are currently set to expire in 2018. At present the Canadian government wants a multipurpose reactor for the Canadian public, and a link to nuclear industry may be crucial. A 2017 proposal call is being discussed for CW will keep NSSA updated on developments.

Action items

Item Number	Person Responsible	Action item	Agenda date (mo/yr)	Agenda Item # for next meeting
1	SR	Letter to Patricia Dehmer urging reinvestment in neutron sources. Letter to Willy Mays applauding NCNR support.	05/15	3
2	PW	Distribute ACNS invited speaker list for review.	01/16	4
3	NW	Provide citations for Fellow selectees.	01/16	4
4	PW	Confirm MRS responsibilities for ACNS 2016 student travel grants.	01/16	4
5	SR/ML/KP	SR: Notify Fellow and Prize selectees. SR/ML: Prepare press release of Fellow and Prize Awards. KP: Order award plaques.	01/16	5
6	ML	Share synopsis of NSSA sponsored MRS symposium and update Executive Committee membership on NSSA webpage.	01/16	NA