

**NSSA Executive Committee Meeting
07/17/17**

Katharine Page (Secretary), 07/31/17

Present: Mike Crawford (MC)
Matthew Helgeson (MH)
Despina Louca (DL)
Katharine Page (KP)
Kate Ross (KR)
Nancy Ross (NR)
Chris Wiebe (CW)
Patrick Woodward (PW)

Absent: Brad Olsen (BO)
Megan Robertson (MR)
Stephan Rosenkranz (SR)

Agenda:

1. Adoption of minutes (KP/DL/All)
2. Date for next call (DL/KP/All)
3. ACNS 2018 planning (PW)
4. Student and postdoc executive committee vacancies (DL)
5. Review of sponsorship policies (DL)
6. Treasury/Communications/Membership officer updates (BO/KR/NR)
7. AOB

Discussion Minutes (by agenda item number):

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

The minutes from 06/01/17 were adopted with no corrections.

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

The date for the next conference call was set for Thursday, August 31, at 1:00 PM Eastern Time.

3. ACNS 2018 planning (PW)

PW reported that it had been decided the next ICNS 2021 meeting would be held in Argentina. It was noted that it will be winter in Argentina if the meeting is held in July or August. NSSA may be helping with the organization; however, there is not yet an established timeframe for planning.

A lunch meeting occurred at ICNS with the Asian and European neutron scattering societies. The Argentinian society president was not there. There was also a facility director meeting attended by Jaime Fernandez Baca and Jeffrey Lynn.

PW shared progress to date in the planning of the 9th American Conference on Neutron Scattering (ACNS). The dates have been set for June 24-30, 2018. PW will draft an announcement for KR to send out. The venue will be The Hotel at University of Maryland. The Hotel rate is still being negotiated, but MRS is hoping to secure a rate of \$189 per night. The standard room rate is \$219 per night. Conference registrants will receive free internet access. The conference banquet will be held on the hotel rooftop. PW has forwarded collected tutorial ideas to Efrain Rodriguez and MH. The program sub-committee chairs are being finalized.

4. Student and postdoc executive committee vacancies (DL)

Five nominations were received for student and postdoc executive committee vacancies. The committee reviewed all recommendations. Alannah Hallas was selected as a representative for hard condensed matter. She is about to complete her PhD in Physics, working with Bruce Gaulin, Graeme Luke, and Chris Wiebe at McMaster University. She will be taking up the Smalley-Curl Postdoctoral Fellowship in Quantum Materials at Rice University, working with Prof. Emilia Morosan. The representative chosen for soft condensed matter is Brian Josey. Brian is a fifth year physics graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University working for Dr. Mathias Lösche. He will be graduating in about a year. DL made a motion to elect the two candidates. NR seconded the motion. Alannah and Brian were unanimously elected. DL will contact the new members, confirm their interest, and invite them to join the next conference call.

5. Review of sponsorship policies (DL)

A discussion was held regarding the practice of advertising schools, workshops, tutorials, and conferences through the NSSA membership list. The Gordon Neutron Scattering Research Conference had recently been advertised through the NSSA membership list, and a reminder was sent out regarding registration deadlines. The message was corrected, and another announcement was sent. The organizer requested a second reminder for the upcoming deadline. KR/DL let the organizer know NSSA would need to review how the mailing list is used before sending additional notifications for events we do not directly sponsor.

It was agreed that promoting neutron scattering events is a good thing for NSSA to do, but that it is important to protect our membership from numerous email advertisements. It was noted that this issue is very likely to arise again. It was agreed we should continue advertising neutron scattering conferences, sessions, schools, and special events like marches for science or letter campaigns to congress. Various policy options were discussed, including: (1) clearing content with the executive committee before sending out announcements; (2) reserving requests and collating them into a monthly communication email; (3) creating a webpage on the NSSA site for announcements; and (4) limiting announcements for events we do not directly sponsor to a single email message. It was discussed that we should be careful to avoid creating policies that are too restrictive. The compromise decided on was that solicitations should be approved by email through the executive committee, and that only one announcement will be sent per event if it is not one we organize.

It was noted that there may be a visit to congressmen in February for science organizations. It was discussed that we should plan to participate and represent the neutron scattering community. We may visit specific representatives serving in various committees, and we may need to create some materials. It is not clear yet when the visit will be organized and who will be organizing it. DL will provide more information as she receives it.

6. Treasury/Communications/Membership officer updates (BO/KR/NR)

BO provided a Treasury update via email. MC has transferred a portion of the NSSA funds, and BO is working on verifying receipt of funds today. The remainder of funds will be transferred after receipt is verified. MC will be helping BO work through tax returns. This will complete his involvement with the office of Treasurer.

KR discussed upgrading the NSSA website. She had a phone meeting last week with the website management company. The company would like to re-template the webpage in order to make it mobile friendly and load more quickly. The changes will make the webpage more prominently promoted by search engines. They will also repair the member directory so member information may be viewed. The cost for re-templating is \$2600. A quote including a re-design is \$4000. We pay \$500 per year for maintenance now. DL made the motion and PW seconded the motion and PW seconded the motion to pursue the re-templating with re-design option. The committee unanimously approved.

7. AOB

CW provided a very positive update on Canadian neutron scattering news. Several recent events and discussions with the Canadian government and have led to what is being called the Canadian Neutron Initiative. The measure will likely be proposed early next year, for a total of \$200M, to be spent over the next 10 years. This is not enough funding to build a new reactor, but it will allow for investing in ORNL, ILL, ESS, and possibly NIST, and reinvesting in the McMaster facility. It will also establish Canadian Neutron Chairs at universities across the country. The measure is being led by the executive branch of government and the presidents of research at several universities. It will be discussed in a cabinet meeting in the fall as an emergency measure, and announced in the spring if passed.

Action items

Item Number	Person Responsible	Action item	Agenda date (mo/yr)	Agenda Item # for next meeting
1	PW/KR	Draft a "save-the-date" announcement for ACNS 2018 and send it out to NSSA members.	07/2017	4
2	BO/MC	Transfer remainder of NSSA funds to BO (MC). Complete 2016 tax returns (BO/MC).	03/2017	6
3	KR	Arrange to modernize re-template and re-design webpages (KR).	07/2017	6