

**NSSA Executive Committee Meeting
01/31/18**

Despina Louca (President) and Katharine Page (Secretary), 02/20/18

Present: Despina Louca (DL)
Brian Josey (BJ)
Alannah Hallas (AH)
Matthew Helgeson (MH)
Katharine Page (KP) (joining late)
Megan Robertson (MR)
Kate Ross (KR)
Chris Wiebe (CW)
Patrick Woodward (PW) (joining late)

Absent: Brad Olsen (BO)
Stephan Rosenkranz (SR)
Nancy Ross (NR)

Agenda: 1) Adoption of minutes (KP/DL/All)
2) Date for next call (DL/KP/All)
3) ACNS 2018 planning (PW)
4) Prize committees (DL)
5) Treasury/Communications/Membership officer updates (BO/KR/NR)
6) Website and logo design (KR)
7) Conflict of interest for the prizes/fellowship nominations (DL)
8) AOB

Discussion Minutes (by agenda item number):

1. Adoption of minutes (KP/DL/All)

The minutes from 11/30/18 will be reviewed and adopted during the next conference call.

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

The date for the next conference was set for Tuesday, February 20, at 11:30 AM Eastern Standard Time.

3. ACNS 2018 planning (PW)

MH and PW shared updates on the planning of ACNS 2018. The technical program is mostly complete, with almost all invited speakers confirmed. Three plenary speakers are: (1) Kate Scholberg for Neutron Physic; (2) Jeff Long for Materials Chemistry; and (3) Tom Russell for Soft Matter. A number of possibilities were discussed for the fourth plenary speaker. It was decided to invite Ram Seshadri.

After dinner speaker options were discussed. The conference chairs had invited Ellen Williams, but she could not make it. MH is planning on checking with Dan Neumann on suggestions for a speaker from the Smithsonian Institute. It was suggested that there are a few congressman or senators who are

scientists or are strong advocates of science. Lamar Alexander (Senator, TN) and Bill Foster (Congressman, IL) were suggested. Bill Foster had given a talk recently and an American Physical Society meeting regarding the influence scientists can have in government.

It was discussed that the ACNS registration fee needs to be set soon. We have communicated with MRS a strong desire to keep the profit margins low on the conference. To do a better job of setting the right registration fee we will need an accurate projection of conference costs. PW is looking at cost projections and actual costs from the last few conferences. DL has asked for the spreadsheets for review.

It was mentioned that Jim Rhyne recommended the services of a conference management company in the Washington D.C. area.

4. Prize committees (DL)

Most of the prize committees have completed their selections and reported their results. We are still waiting on a few more decisions. It was discussed that we have covered ACNS conference registration for prize winners in the past.

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

No updates.

6. Website and logo design (KR)

We have selected a final winner for the new NSSA logo design competition and we can now finish the website redesign.

7. Conflict of interest for the prizes/fellowship nominations (DL)

There was a discussion of the conflict of interest guidelines for NSSA prize and fellowship selection committees. It was noted that guidelines are posted online: http://neutronsattering.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Conflict_of_interest_NSSA_2015.pdf.

8. AOB

CW updated the executive committee on the Canadian Institute for Neutron Scattering news. made it to Canadian government, \$190M, cabinet receptive to funding.

Action items

Item Number	Person Responsible	Action item	Agenda date (mo/yr)	Agenda Item # for next meeting
1	MH/ER	Confirm fourth plenary speaker for ACNS.	1/2018	3
2	DL	Check in with Prize and Fellowship Committees.	1/2018	3
3	DL/PW	Set conference registration fee with MRS based on narrower profit margins (DL/PW). Send spreadsheets detailing former meeting costs (PW).	10/2017	3
4	KR	Complete website redesign.	1/2018	6
5	DL	Explore possibility of new Executive Committee member-at-large from Argentina.	08/2017	8