

SNS HFIR User Group (SHUG) Executive Committee Minutes
Archived at <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/users/shug>

Teleconference held March 5, 2013, 1:00pm EST.

Present

- Executive Committee: Greg Beaucage (chair), Dave Belanger, Fred Heberle, Peter Khalifah, Antonella Longo, Hanno zur Loye, Yan Gao, Malcolm Guthrie
- Guests: Kelly Beierschmitt, Mike Simonson, Volker Urban, Jaime Fernandez-Baca, Laura Morris Edwards, Al Ekkebus

Absent

- Executive Committee: Tyrel McQueen, Michael Mackay, Cora Lind

Minutes submitted for review May 6, 2013 by F.A. Heberle.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Greg: send thank you email to neutron advocates at BESAC meeting

ATTACHMENTS and WEBSITES of interest from the teleconference:

- No attachments

AGENDA

1. Roll call
2. Approval of minutes from February meeting (*approved*).
3. Approval of current agenda (*approved*).
4. Action items from February meeting
 - a. Gather information about what other facilities have done in terms of recognizing outstanding theses, papers (Al). *Item complete*.
 - b. Look into previously proposed instruments that weren't funded, send to Executive Committee (Al, Steve). *Item complete*.
 - c. Send Kelly's presentation materials from the Dec. 10th DOE briefing to the Executive Committee (Al). *Item complete*.
 - d. Contact instrument scientists for names of users who might be willing/able to promote SNS/HFIR instruments at conferences (Paul, Steve, Mike, Thomas). *Carry over to next meeting*.
 - e. Draft a plan for the User Meeting (general organization of meeting, possibility of CNMS and Computational Science participation, estimate of participation from user facility community, possibility of webcasting some sessions) (Greg, Al, Fred, Laura). *Ongoing*.
5. Updates
 - a. Kelly's updates/comments
 - i. *BESAC subcommittee meeting*. Held last week in Washington (3 days, including subcommittee meeting). All user facilities briefed

BESAC on scientific impact, work that is done, user support, case for uniqueness, and science thrust supported by facilities. BESAC ranked facilities in three categories: (i) absolutely central to BES mission, (ii) important to BES mission, or (iii) low priority. Fourth category (“not enough info at this time”) was not used. SNS ranked absolutely central, HFIR important, Lujan low priority. SNS is considered the flagship for neutrons for the long future and central to the mission. Lots of discussion around HFIR: BESAC believes that from a scattering standpoint HFIR is productive and doing great science, is the only place to produce heavy actinides. One of the other program offices will rank it absolutely central. Lujan ranking was a blow. Light sources fared well: NSLS1 at Brookhaven is low priority, SSRL and ALS are important, the rest are central. Nanocenters are all central with exception of Brookhaven and ORNL. BESAC looked at four future upgrades: APSU at Argonne and LCLS2 are underway and ranked central, Next Generation Light Source at Berkeley is central but needing development. SNS 2nd target station is central and needing science and technological input. HFIR 2nd guide hall ranked important, but neutron people on the committee got it upgraded to central, though shovel-readiness was downgraded (needs science and technological input). **Greg action item:** email McQueeney, Dimeo, Tranquada, Tobias, and Sinha to thank them for their support in representing the neutron facilities. All of this puts us in position to move forward after sequestration is worked out.

1. Q, Yan: What does the ranking actually mean for future funding possibilities? Will DOE follow this recommendation in allocating resources? A, Kelly: Bill Brinkman asked advisory committees to rank all facilities supported by the Office of Science to update the 10 or 20 year plan. All reports come back to Brinkman March 22nd. “Low priority” equals major risk, and “important” is also not good given the budget crisis. “Central” means funding should be in place. For facilities underway, there might be funding delays even for “important” ranking. APS upgrade and LCLS2 will go forward. The competition is for the third slot, between Next Gen Light Source at Berkeley and SNS 2nd target station. Brinkman will decide which goes next. Our case: (i) neutrons are severely limited in North America, need to increase capacity, (ii) numerous

investments in light sources since SNS 1st target station, including new sources and upgrades. For moving forward, it's critical that new instruments are distinguishing and have a strong community backing, and eliminating the uncertainty around the instruments will help Kelly compete. *SHUG must be involved in this process.*

2. Q, Peter: how does the Lujan ranking affect its future, how and does it affect the thinking on the SNS 2nd target station? A, Kelly: If Lujan capacity removed, a lot of the community needed to staff the 2nd target station is removed. 2023 is the date of delivery of the first 5 instruments. We've just gotten back to the capacity before Brookhaven and Argonne were lost. The capacity argument was made to BESAC. Peter notes that if the machine here went down, we would really take a capacity hit without other sources available.
 - ii. *Sequestration.* Don't know yet where this is going relative to the ORNL facilities. Sponsor says keep operating as scheduled. Rumors about a committee report saying HFIR could be shut down were unfounded. This was all political and did not come from the program sponsor (not even a worst case scenario). We're watching March 27th and the continuing resolution closely: If we do not get a continuing resolution and the government shuts down, then it's anybody's guess. Q, Greg: DOE has latitude? A, Kelly: Yes, for operating programs Brinkman and Kung can juggle funding.
- b. SNS/HFIR facility/instrument updates (Division directors)
 - i. Jaime Fernandez-Baca (Quantum Condensed Matter)
 1. HYSPEC partially in user program for the first time, and some proposals will be taken. New capability: HB1 triple axis can do full polarization, upgrade of monochromator has been completed. Three new IS hired, two for triple axis group (Adam Aczel, Songxue Chi) and Stuart Calder for the powder diffractometer. High pressure workshop being organized for first week in June (Dos Santos).
 - ii. Volker Urban (Biology and Soft Matter)
 1. EQSANS: now normalized to neutron monitor counts, low q range improved due to masking improvements. BL4B: new robot is now in routine operation, new Langmuir trough integrated with data acquisition. NSE: upcoming workshop (MELODY), tutorial and hands-on data

treatment. MANDI: new IS, Matt Cuneo. Beam divergence measurement made. Now operating with 6 detectors, still in commissioning phase. IMAGINE: major progress made, bulk of commissioning is complete, now awaiting the commissioning report and then will transition to user operations. BIOSANS: new *in situ* transmission measurements using semi-transparent beamstop. Focusing on upgrades of sample environments, rotating sample cells for samples that would normally separate under gravity.

iii. Mike Simonson (Chemical and Engineering Materials).

1. Commissioning and recommissioning: anger cameras have passed the acceptance tests. VISION instrument is working through detector performance and software such that all the data coming back is used, good progress here. We now have mail-in sample capability on NOMAD and POWGEN. Short proposal for mail-ins, reviewed internally, quick turnaround. Level of support you would expect, but good way to get quick access for experiments that run in standard sample environments (automatic sample changer, etc.).

c. User office updates (Laura)

- i. Call closes at noon tomorrow. Running ahead of the last call, 93 proposals are in compared to 80 at this time last call. Couple of new instruments in the call on a limited basis.
- ii. Unique user numbers tracking well, 197 at the end of January for HFIR, 227 for SNS. Compiling and validating February numbers now.

6. 2013 ORNL User Meeting (Greg to lead discussion)

- a. *Greg.* Talked with head of CNMS user group (Tony Hmelo), there was a joint meeting in 2010. CNMS has already selected the week of Aug. 12th for this year, and want to set up a committee with the chair and other people to organize the meeting. CNMS has about 350 unique users, 60 to 70 would come onsite for a meeting. We had > 100 users for the last meeting, and 220 total for the last joint meeting.
- b. *Discussion.* Al: Greg needs to define the scope, how many days and what days, what's the format. After these things are defined we can move forward. Greg and the CNMS should work together on this, define some goals, then we can bring it back to the meeting and discuss again. Greg and Tyrel can move forward with this, work with Tony and the CNMS group to sort some things out. Kelly: emphasize connections between the

two communities, and with industrial research leaders. Good opportunity to see what's being done in other fields. Mike offers to follow up offline with Greg to put some more concrete ideas behind Kelly's idea. Laura: Al and Laura happy to sit in on the next CNMS conference call.

7. Discussion of facility user awards (Al)
 - a. Greg, take a look at this. May be late to do for this year's meeting, but should establish this for future meetings.
8. Upcoming events (Al)
 - a. MELODY workshop next week
 - b. June 3 events: workshop on POWGEN, high pressure activities, structural biology.
 - c. August: User Meeting 2nd week, 3rd week is the neutron/X-ray school (announcement next week). April 8 is the closing date, on the website.

Next telecon date: Tuesday April 2, 2013, at 1:00pm EST