

SHUG-EC Meeting Minutes

12 February 2025

In Attendance

- Ben Frandsen
- Kent Griffith
- Izabela Kruk
- Grace Longbons (Secretary)
- Allen Scheie
- Hillary Smith (Chair)
- Katie Weigandt
- Weiwei Xie (Vice Chair)
- Julia Zaikina
- Michelle Dolgos (ORNL)
- Jon Taylor (ORNL)

Agenda

- User Meeting Planning: Identify the plenary speakers by the end of next week
- SHUG-EC Onsite Meeting coordination
- Neutron School update from Jon/Michelle
- Discuss NXS letter draft; Update on attendee feedback from Ben

Minutes

(17:06) Approved Last Meeting Minutes

(17:07) Neutron X-Ray Scattering School

- This year, there will be separate neutron and x-ray schools. The neutron school will take place the week of 8 September and the x-ray school will take place in July.
- The ORNL/neutron part of the school is planning on asking the same people as previous years to do the same lectures to try to preserve the format and content from previous years.
- The SHUG letter draft to DOE needs to be revised to instead emphasize supporting keeping the neutron and x-ray components of the school together to support combining the two communities and to educate future neutron and x-ray facility users.
- Survey of NXS Alumni:
 - 110 responses so far.
 - Most responses are from recent years (75% are from the last three years) but there are some responses from 2008 participants.
 - After the school, 58% participated in neutron experiments and 55% participated in x-ray experiments.
 - **Actionable Item:** Go through the survey responses to check for appropriate and relevant comments, and to attach the comments to the letter (**Ben, Allen, and Weiwei** volunteered).
- The plan is to finish up the letter and send to the SHUG and APS communities to get digital signatures.
- **Actionable Item:** Finalize the letter within the next week and have the SHUG-EC make final edits/comments.

(17:16) Planning User Meeting (Joint with CNMS)

- **Hillary, Ben, Weiwei, and Nariti** are on the planning committee.
- Need to identify 2-3 plenary speakers by the next meeting on 21 February.
- Plenary speakers do not need to be from a specific subfield; the goal is to have neutron talks that can reach a wider audience; Ben suggested Simon Billinge.
- Sharing a list of previous speakers would be helpful for suggesting speakers for this year.
- **Actionable Item:** Send plenary speaker suggestions to Hillary (and can also send parallel session speaker suggestions).

- Meeting will be at the Crowne Plaza in Nashville, TN on 11-14 August; workshops will be held Monday and Thursday with the remainder of the meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Prospective Town Halls:
 - Sample Environment (**Katie** and **Anne-Frances** volunteered to organize and lead)
 - Block time for other town hall topics TBD (*e.g.* Growing user community, ORNL initiatives and resources such as Neutron Nexus/NUBe, STS Updates)

(17:22) On-Site SHUG-EC Meeting

- SHUG-EC on-site meeting is usually in August, so perhaps combine with the User Meeting, potentially on the workshop days (will need to coordinate with workshop leaders).
- Maybe minimize meeting down to one full day or two half-days (*e.g.* by identifying certain session that can be held every other year).

(17:37) New Initiatives

- Neutron Ambassador deadline extended a week; looking for more applications external to ORNL and UT (Neutron Ambassador Program).
- Interview initiatives are on hold until next month (will be led by **Nairiti**)