

# SHUG-EC Meeting Minutes

12 November 2025

## In Attendance

- |                       |                           |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| • Ben Frandsen        | • Allen Scheie            | • Janell Thomson    |
| • Kent Griffith       | • Nairiti Sinha           | (ORNL)              |
| • Grace Longbons      | • Hillary Smith (Chair)   | • Michelle Dolgos   |
| (Secretary)           | • Weiwei Xie (Vice Chair) | (ORNL)              |
| • Anne-Frances Miller | • Julia Zaikina           | • Jon Taylor (ORNL) |

## Agenda

- Approval of On-Site Report and STS Workshop Summary
- Election Update
- Future Polls
- Thoughts from SHUG-EC members who are finishing their terms about the future of SHUG-EC, suggestions for welcoming new members, etc.

## Minutes

### (11:04) On-Site Report and STS Workshop Summary

- The SHUG-EC moved to approve the final version of the On-Site Report and the STS Workshop Summary.
- **Actionable Item:** Hillary will send the On-Site Report and STS Workshop Summary to Jon and Janell, and will organize posting the report on the SHUG website.

### (11:06) STS Updates and Requests

- Jon provided updates on the STS and that DOE-BES and ORNL are still discussing the Science Case, specifically in regard to how soft matter benefits from neutrons.
- Jon has requested the SHUG-EC semi-peer review the STS Science Case documents to ensure it is representative of the community, supports the main objectives, and to catch anything they may have missed.
- The SHUG-EC is hesitant to take on the semi-peer review of the Science Case because its members are not representative of each scientific field covered in the document, and so feel any input may not meet qualifications and expectations.
- Instead, the SHUG-EC has suggested the Science Theme Committee (see below) take on the semi-peer review as their first action because they need to be familiar with the Science Case and will span across all of the included research areas.
- BES has given ORNL approval to engage with the community to discuss the STS instrument suite, so community involvement is moving forward in the form of committees.
- Two sets of committees have been proposed to work with BES:
  - **NScD/NUPO Scientific Advisory** Committee:
    - \* Discuss science areas *with* instrumentation suite.
    - \* BES directed and led, with members appointed by BES.
    - \* Input will be provided by the Chair of Science Theme Committee.
  - **Science Theme** Committee:
    - \* Discuss science areas *without* instrumentation suite.
    - \* Community-nominated and led to provide representation of active researchers.
    - \* Goal: Determine the STS priorities out of the Science Case, instrument combinations, and Grand Challenges and then distill this into three instrument suggestions.

- \* Committee Chair will work with and sit on the Scientific Advisory Committee and coordinate with the other **four (?)** committees.
- \* Committee will consist of approximately 15-20 people.
- **Actionable Item:** Jon has requested if the SHUG-EC will lead the nominations and organization of the community-led Science Theme Committee. The committee nominations need to occur before the end of 2025, so that the committee can begin to meet early 2026.
- Feedback from the STS Workshop and Townhall included inquiries into how people are selected for these types of groups/committees, so this community-nominated and led committee is a good idea and way to engage the community while providing transparency.
- A Transformational AI Models Consortium has occurred and there has been a large surge of activity around AI initiatives.
- BES has funded three initiatives for AI in quantum materials, chemistry and catalysis, and nanomaterials.
- **Actionable Item:** Jon has requested the SHUG-EC's thoughts on the push for AI and to understand how it fits with the user community.

### (11:55) Update of the SHUG-EC Election

- So far, 248 ballots have been submitted (for comparison: in 2024 there were 284 ballots, and in 2023 there were 387 ballots).
- The election ballots will remain open through the end of November.

### (11:56) For December Meeting

- With the next meeting in December being the last meeting for a few of the SHUG-EC members, this is a good opportunity for those members to reflect on their terms and think of suggestions for the future of the committee and new members.
- **Actionable Item:** For departing SHUG-EC members, think of suggestions and final thoughts to share at the next meeting (10 December 2025).