

October 29th, 2007 SHUG Executive Committee Conference Call:

Members present

Igor Zaliznyak (Chair) – BNL
Leonard Spicer - Duke University
Li (Emily) Liu - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Andrei Savici - Johns Hopkins University (at ORNL)

1. The first point on the agenda was discussing National Users Facilities Organization (NUFO) activities. Igor Zaliznyak presented a summary of discussion with Susan White-De-Pace (RHIC) about users' involvement in lobbying activities. They sent emails to all users asking to volunteer. Andrei Savici proposed using SHUG email list for this purpose. Leo Spicer proposed forming focused groups in several regions, to contact their local representatives in Congress/ Senate.

2. Igor Zaliznyak asked for help in preparing for the SNS / HFIR executive committee meeting. He will present a summary of ORNL users meeting, including goals and requests from the user community. He is still waiting for emails from several session chairs. In addition, the new instrument at HFIR, on cold guide CG1 was discussed. So far, there seems to be a lot of support from people doing magnetism for a triple axes spectrometer. It was noted that no alternative was proposed. In order for the users to have a say, Igor Zaliznyak will email SHUG members about input/support for that instrument.

3. Regarding funding for travel to user facilities: DOE - condensed matter will no longer support community development proposals. This will be available only through individual science grants. One option is to use NUFO outreach to lobby for this money. It was noted that at Fermilab they are using non-DOE lab resources for this purpose. The strategy that emerged is to first convince DOE that a small investment will increase dramatically their user base, then use support from NUFO lobbying for allocation of funds for this purpose.