

## SHUG-EC Conference Call: Tues. Nov. 10, 2020

### Online:

- (I) ORNL: Adam, Hans, Jaime, Janell, Eugene, Ken
- (II) External: Martin, Danielle, Geneva, Jarek, Ally, Olivier, Adrian, Daniel, Dvora

### Document approval:

- Minutes from Oct. 2020 conference call: approve
- Agenda for Nov. 2020 conference call: approve

#### 1. NSD update

- SNS is running well with high reliability. The next planned long outage will begin in late November and end in mid-February.
- HFIR update:
  - Currently down due to flow test failure of fuel element planned for use in cycle 490 – two plates in outer portion of element were deflected. The element was subsequently rejected by NScD before the cycle started.
  - ESS (evaluation of the safety of the situation) now needs to be submitted to DOE and approved to continue operations. Modifications to the existing fuel elements to prevent further plate deflections are now in progress also. These activities will take a significant amount of time, so the earliest that HFIR will resume operations is early February.

#### 2. SHUG-EC support within NSD moving forward

- The SHUG-EC used to bounce ideas off Crystal and initiate some discussions with her offline, but that is no longer possible due to her retirement. Hans pointed out that Janell will take on a modified version of Crystal's role in the future, although the SHUG-EC can also reach out directly to him as needed.

#### 3. SHUG-EC elections

- Voting for 2021 SHUG-EC members is open. 162 people have voted so far; last year about 370 people voted. Voting will close on Nov. 29.

#### 4. Plan for interviewing remote experiment participants

- Reach out to groups that SHUG-EC members know personally first to get their feedback
- We need to come up with an appropriate list of questions
- We should start these interviews ASAP; Ally is leading the coordination of this effort through a Slack channel

#### 5. BES User Facilities Roundtable

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- Hans is co-chairing a panel at the upcoming BES User Facilities Roundtable on “Lessons from the COVID Era and Visions for the Future.”
- Topics include: (1) User research in virtual context, (2) User research in physically distanced context, (3) Facility operations in physically distanced or virtual context, (4) User training/engagement, (5) Computation, data, and network resources.
- Participation in the Roundtable will be by invitation and include primarily DOE facility representatives and user executive committee chairs.
- SHUG-EC requests from Hans:
  - o (1) International speaker nominations: I believe it is very important for us to learn from facilities in other countries. I’m advocating to invite a foreign participant to discuss how things are handled in a different facility and a different country. If you have specific thoughts about who would be a good speaker (from a foreign neutron source) for such a discussion, please let me know as soon as possible
  - o (2) As indicated, specific feedback from your discussions with users will be very helpful for the discussion. I am certain that the panels would highly welcome a “report” (or memo) from the SHUG-EC to draw from – it would give the SHUG a voice in the process, and make it easier for the panelists to write a report.
- Timing: the discussions will all happen between 12/2 (opening) and 12/15 (panel reports).

### 6. SHUG’s topical user groups

- We discussed the possibility of establishing subgroups that could serve as liaisons between users with specific, shared interests and the SHUG-EC
- These subgroups would provide information to the SHUG-EC that could then be communicated to ORNL management, ensuring that the SHUG-EC would be more impactful overall.

### 7. 2021 user meeting (joint with CNMS)

- We need to start thinking about dates and if the meeting should be virtual. Hans mentioned that there should be a special focus on industrial users.

### 8. Celebrating Crystal’s retirement

- An e-card is already circulating within NSD, but the SHUG-EC would like to do more. We discussed contributing to a restaurant gift card for her. Any interested parties can reach out to Janell to contribute to the gift card.

### 9. Next conference call: Dec. 8, 2020, 4 PM