

SHUG-EC Conference Call: Tues. Oct. 13, 2020

Online:

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

Document approval:

- Minutes from Sept. 2020 conference call: approve
- Agenda for Oct. 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.
- PPU has received CD-2/CD-3 approval and therefore project construction can now begin
- HFIR update from Brian Weston:
 - 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 situations) now needs to be submitted to DOE and approved to continue operations. This process can take a significant amount of time, so it has been decided to start the long fall outage now. The earliest that HFIR will resume operations is early February.

2. SHUG-EC elections

- Nominations are still being sent to Daniel Shoemaker. Each SHUG-EC member will contact up to three prospective members and provide him with that information before the Oct. 18 deadline. We have already found some good candidates with a hard-condensed matter background, but we are still interested in finding others with soft condensed matter and engineering materials backgrounds.
- Nominees must have been a PI or collaborator on at least one SNS or HFIR proposal over the last two years.

3. New general user proposal carryover policy and related discussion

- NSD management is considering a new policy that will only allow accepted general user proposals to be carried over for a maximum of two years and they would like feedback from the SHUG-EC about this idea. If this policy is implemented, it would only apply to new proposals and not accepted ones already in the queue.
- It may be worth discussing this idea in more detail during the next SHUG-EC conference call
- The SHUG-EC is interested in long-term planning schedules for both the HFIR and the SNS. It was argued that this information would help faculty plan out their research programs over the next several years. Steve pointed out that this information is already available on the Neutron Sciences website for the user community. It was

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also pointed out that the HFIR Be changeout schedule should be made available once a draft exists.

4. Remote access and remote user experiments discussion
 - There are concerns that new graduate students and postdocs are not receiving the same level of education/instruction during remote access experiments. This problem may be exacerbated for less experienced scatterers. It may be worth reaching out to this group to solicit additional feedback about this issue and how it can be mitigated.
 - NScD is currently working to modify the format of remote experiments. There are plans in motion to have the users control some or all the instruments remotely. This change to the remote experiment format may help to improve the experience for new graduate students and postdocs. There is a NScD remote experiment task force working this issue now and it would probably be beneficial to have them interact with the SHUG-EC in some way.

5. Next conference call: Nov. 10, 2020, 4 PM