

SHUG-EC Conference Call: Wednesday, May 8, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM EDT

Attendees (online):

ORNL: Jon Taylor, Naresh Osti, Janell Thomson

External: Amy Xu, Rebecca Dally, Grace Longbons, Hillary Smith, Nairiti Sinha, Yulia Zaikina, Igor Zaliznyak, Benjamin Frandsen

Discussion items:

1. Meeting minutes from April 2024 approved.
2. User survey update
 - a. 77 respondents so far
 - b. Janell's email garnered a lot of responses, she will send another reminder next week (May 13) and a final reminder on May 28
 - c. Closing date: May 31
 - d. We will distribute the automatically generated survey results internally, then decide what responses need a deeper look
 - e. We will make an identical copy of the survey and link to it with a QR code posted prominently at ACNS to gather more responses
 - f. There is a concern that the low number of responses could reflect poorly on the neutron community to administrative decisionmakers above ORNL
3. Beamtime allocation for new users
 - a. New users seem to have a particularly difficult time getting beamtime
 - b. ORNL is looking carefully into this issue, considering discretionary time or other programs, need to analyze data to make sure there aren't unintended consequences of any decisions taken
 - c. Publications working group at ORNL is a part of these discussions; publications per experiment remains an important metric for BES
 - d. Any ideas that SHUG-EC members have should be sent to Janell
4. SHUG Town Hall
 - a. Detailed discussion during next month's meeting
 - b. Request from Jens Dilling to have live polling capabilities during the town hall
 - i. Poll Everywhere, Mentimeter, Qualtrics are potential options
5. Feedback from last month's SRC for the most recent proposal call
 - a. Cora Lind-Kovac, non-ORNL head of the SRC, has prepared some slides about the SRC process, invites input from SHUG-EC
 - b. Suggestions about communicating to users if on-site SRC changed overall score because of inaccurate reviewer comments
 - c. Suggestion to provide more definitive criteria to reviewers
 - d. Some concerns about normalizing reviewer scores based on each individual reviewer's scoring profile; it could be that some reviewers happen to get a lot of poor proposals and therefore award low scores, which would then skew the results if individual scores were normalized. Should be less of an issue for reviewers who have done lots of reviews.
 - e. SRC is happy with the growing reviewer pool
 - f. Continue to encourage people to become reviewers

6. ORNL committee: Growing and Diversifying the User Community
 - a. Mingda and Hillary are on the University Outreach Subcommittee, invite input from SHUG-EC
 - b. Subcommittee meets weekly on Tuesdays at 10 AM EST, request to have one or a few SHUG-EC members join one of the meetings to provide input
 - i. Mingda will circulate an email asking for SHUG-EC volunteers to participate. Grace Longbons, Yulia Zaikina, and Amy Xu have expressed a willingness to join a meeting in the coming weeks.
7. Breakthrough Symposium
 - a. Targeting Fall 2024 for the next one
 - b. Hillary, Rebecca, and Yulia will be picking speakers soon
 - c. Consider polling SHUG Town Hall attendees for future topics
 - d. Suggestion to choose a topic that is not hard condensed matter for the following symposium