

SNS HFIR User Group (SHUG) Executive Committee Minutes
Archived at <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/users/shug>

Teleconference held April 12, 2012, 3:30pm EST.

Attendees

- Executive Committee: Greg Beaucage (chair), Dave Belanger, Malcolm Guthrie, Fred Heberle, Michael Mackay, Tyrel McQueen
- Guests: Robert McGreevy, Mike Simonsen, Laura Edwards, Al Ekkebus

Minutes submitted for review May 31, 2012 by F.A. Heberle.

ACTION ITEMS:

- SHUG committee members need to self-identify with a scientific division for future organization (Quantum Condensed Matter, Biology and Soft matter, chemical engineering materials). Al will send an email, please reply with your response.
- Add a few posts to the SHUG blog (discussed below in item 3) and go public with the site within a few weeks (Malcolm). Provide some research highlights for the blog (Al).

1. Status updates (Robert McGreevy)

HFIR has been back in operation for a week and a half. The “lost” cycle wasn’t really lost, as it did not affect the user time. The new Bio-SANS detector was commissioned during the downtime and will be available for users earlier than it otherwise would have been. Optics for the new IMAGINE instrument were also aligned earlier than scheduled.

SNS is operational. Three hours were lost on April 11th due to two unrelated incidents. Despite that hiccup we have 98.4% reliability for the cycle, mostly at 1 MW, which is a remarkable achievement. VISION is currently in commissioning, and the next instrument to come into commissioning is MANDI, but that’s still some time off.

2. User Office updates (Laura Edwards)

The Science Review Committee will meet April 16-17. Some numbers: 602 proposals (requiring 1204 reviews) for 84 reviewers, 63 of whom will be on site.

The area overlooking the control room is being renovated into a comfortable new user lounge, which will include general workspace and couches. There will also be some remodeling in the foyer and space below the foyer to create a general meeting space, including a permanent registration desk and more space for ad-hoc meetings.

3. SHUG blog on Google update (Malcolm)

The blog is up and feedback is requested: please have a look at the site (an invitation has been sent to committee members), and comment on the setup, what future content might look like, and when to make it live. Some suggestions for content include a brief summary of SHUG meetings and user highlights.

Some suggestions to increase traffic include advertising meetings and events, and posting operating cycle information for HFIR and SNS. Publicity will be critical: some suggestions to increase public awareness of the site include a link on the main website and in communications sent to users, and a flyer.

4. Other topics (Robert, Al)

Robert led a discussion regarding potential changes to the way that SNS/HFIR organizes interactions with users. The suggestion is to use the new internal organization within Neutron Sciences (three science divisions) as a template for interactions with users. Along these lines, SHUG would be remodeled to act as representatives of the three scientific communities. For now, SHUG members should self-identify with one of these three groups (Biology and Soft Matter, Chemical and Engineering Materials, or Quantum Condensed Matter). Eventually, SHUG by-laws must be changed to ensure representation within each group.

Robert has flagged a new issue for feedback from SHUG members. There is an international movement (particularly with publicly funded research) to make all data publicly available. The current DOE policy is that data belongs to each PI individually, but this is expected to change in the not-too-distant future. In preparation for that, a discussion regarding the appropriate way to handle these changes within Neutron Scattering Sciences is in order. Robert is currently writing a white paper, which will be sent to SHUG members for comment. The discussion will then expand to the broader user community.

The BES review will take place in late August. It is expected that BES reviewers will want some discussion with SHUG. A teleconference has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday Aug. 28th.

Next telecon date: Thursday May 31, 2012, at 3:00pm EST.