

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

Teleconference held February 5, 2013, 1:00pm EST.

Present

- Executive Committee: Greg Beaucage (chair), Dave Belanger, Fred Heberle, Cora Lind, Antonella Longo, Hanno zur Loye, Malcolm Guthrie, Tyrel McQueen
- Guests: Kelly Beierschmitt, Mike Simonson, Steve Nagler, Greg Smith, Al Ekkebus

Absent

- Executive Committee: Yan Gao, Michael Mackay, Peter Khalifah

Minutes submitted for review February 28, 2013 by F.A. Heberle and approved **March 5, 2013** by the Executive Committee.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Send a list of 5 suggested reviewers for upcoming SRC to Laura or Al (**All**). Kelly encourages SHUG to have a strong voice in this process. Criteria include technical competence, interest, and willingness to spend time and energy. The primary job of the reviewer is to give perspective on whether the science is important (feasibility is judged separately).
- Gather information about what other facilities have done in terms of recognizing outstanding theses, papers (**Al**).
- Look into previously proposed instruments that weren't funded, send to Executive Committee (**Al, Steve**).
- Send Kelly's presentation materials from the Dec. 10th DOE briefing to the Executive Committee (**Al, Fred**).
- Contact instrument scientists for names of users who might be willing/able to promote SNS/HFIR instruments at conferences (**Paul, Steve, Mike, Thomas**)
- Draft a plan for the User Meeting (general organization of meeting, possibility of CNMS and Computational Science participation, estimate of participation from user facility community, possibility of webcasting some sessions) (**Al, Fred, Laura**).

ATTACHMENTS and WEBSITES of interest from the teleconference:

- Kelly's presentation materials from Dec. 10th DOE Briefing

AGENDA

1. Roll call
2. Approval of minutes from January meeting (*approved*).

3. Approval of current agenda (*approved*).
4. Action items from January meeting
 - a. Gather information about what other facilities have done in terms of recognizing outstanding theses, papers (AI). *Carry over to next meeting.*
 - b. Look into previously proposed instruments that weren't funded, send to Executive Committee (AI, Steve, others). *Carry over to next meeting.*
 - c. Send a list of 5-6 names of potential SRC members to AI or Laura (All).
5. Updates
 - a. Kelly's updates/comments
 - i. *Recap of Kelly's Dec. 10 DOE briefing* (see attached presentation for details):
 1. Improve reliability of sources by buying critical spares (targets, fuel for reactor).
 2. \$66M multiyear project to fully build out and modernize instruments at both facilities. User community needs to weigh in on priorities (future topic for this meeting). DOE responded favorably, their intention is to figure out how to fund.
 3. Requested permission to engage DOE about second target station. DOE responded to not get ahead of them, they will direct Kelly when to engage.
 - ii. *BESAC action to update 20 year facility plan.* Bill Brinkman has asked the advisory committees for major science program offices to create a subcommittee to evaluate user facility needs over the next decade. On Feb. 27th, Thom Mason, Kelly and others will brief BESAC on plans to fully equip and modernize instruments, including a tentative timeframe and thoughts about second target station. Current best case: if we start in 2015, will have instruments in user program between 2024–2026. Report will go to BESAC subcommittee. Other light sources will present, and the subcommittee will give a priority list to Brinkman by March 22nd. This could end up being a transition document for Secretary Chu's replacement to understand the community's priorities. We will be making the case for neutrons, in particular complementarity and capacity. SHUG needs to be aware of this: if priorities are being set for the next 10 years, the community has to be involved.
 - iii. *Severe travel restrictions (conference restrictions) placed on DOE scientific and technical staff.* For ICNS, approved attendees cut from 75 (last meeting) to 5 (2013 meeting). This impacts our ability to collaborate. Cora suggests that instrument scientists contact users about promoting instruments at meetings (for

example Cora has presented a poster on POWGEN). Kelly: excellent suggestion. Action item for Division directors: contact instrument scientists regarding suggestions for names of users who might be willing/able to promote SNS/HFIR instruments at conferences.

- iv. *2012 BES review received from DOE*. Overall, the review was extremely positive: reviewers said they have seen a transformational change over the last two years, and that the facility is on the path to producing the right science. We are acting on summary bullets, and continuing to work with community to get highest quality science out of these facilities:
 1. Improve sample environment and data reduction, work with SRC to select highest quality proposals.
 2. Fill the Deputy Associate Lab Director position. Ads going out to Neutron News, Nature, Science, Physics Today. Interviews will begin toward the end of the month, with a decision likely coming in spring or early summer. Four strong candidates have already applied.
 3. Move target system beyond experiment and into robust, routine operations. Need to ensure reliability of target (introduce jet flow technology, etc.).
 4. Lot of additional information in the report, which Kelly is happy to discuss with whoever is interested. BES asked us to continue to improve the SHUG. Excerpts from the report that would be of interest to SHUG will be compiled and sent to the Executive Committee (**Action item for AI**).
- b. SNS/HFIR facility/instrument updates (Division directors)
 - i. Steve Nagler (Quantum Condensed Matter).
 1. Have filled all three IS positions. (**Fred note: Get these names from Steve.**)
 - ii. Greg Smith (Biology and Soft Matter).
 1. SANS program going strong, with recent focus on sample environment improvements, including rheometer, new Peltier systems, and rotating Hellma cell. BL4B has new automatic sample changing/alignment capability. NSE continues to perform well, and MELODY meeting (March 12-14) is being sponsored with Backscattering (BASIS) for users of low energy spectroscopy. MANDI and IMAGINE are in commissioning, currently running standard samples and moving toward actual experiments.

- iii. Mike Simonson (Chemical and Engineering Materials).
 - 1. HB2B data acquisition problems have been tracked down and fixed. A good data set was taken just before the beam went down at HFIR, and we're very positive that we will have limited user access in the next cycle. TOPAZ: mask based tests met criteria for uniformity, intensity and distortion, now testing against crystal spot data and moving toward availability in the user program.
- c. User office updates (Al)
 - i. Laura needs suggested reviewers for VULCAN, time of flight, and low energy/chemical spectroscopy.
 - ii. Call closes March 6 for experiments to be held July-December 2013. Results of proposal call due back May 1.
 - iii. HFIR is down for an extended outage as of Feb. 2nd, and will return for cycle 447 on May 7. SNS will continue operations until May 30.
- 6. Upcoming User Meeting (Kelly)
 - a. This is SHUG's meeting, and should be user driven. In general, the facility is not involved in the planning beyond dates and hosting, and help organizing sessions. Some items for consideration:
 - i. Possible dates include the week of Aug. 12th or Sept. 9th.
 - ii. Consider including Center for Nanophase Materials Science (they have a user group as well). Holding a joint user meeting would create an opportunity for these user communities to interact.
 - iii. Consider inviting corporate researchers (e.g., 3M, Ford) for users to create relationships with industry (sometimes this results in funding opportunities).
 - b. Discussion: is SHUG interested in broadening the meeting to add value? Cora thinks this could be beneficial. Malcolm noted that last year's meeting wasn't well attended, and any steps to boost attendance would be beneficial. Mike said that in the past, some users weren't aware of other opportunities beyond the lab and beyond CNMS to move their science forward. Hanno said that if industry is brought in, the potential for finding future employment would be of interest to graduate students. Representatives from industry should therefore bring employment materials.
 - c. Brief discussion of travel funding. For past meetings there was an ORAU grant, and EPSCoR states have been funded by UT through their EPSCoR grant. We will work these angles to try to offset costs for students and faculty.

- d. Discussion of how to move forward. Kelly asked if SHUG has a committee to organize the meeting? Al responded that the Executive Committee provides input, and we move forward based on their recommendations. The next steps are to put the ideas discussed today to paper, draft a plan for what the meeting will be, and estimate participation from the user facility community.
 - e. Action items:
 - i. Send out dates for consideration (**Fred**). Note that Sept. 9th may overlap with Fall ACS meeting in Indianapolis.
 - ii. Look into possibility of webcasting parts of the meeting (e.g. plenary sessions) (**Al**).
 - iii. Draft a plan for the User Meeting (general organization of meeting, possibility of CNMS and Computational Science participation, estimate of participation from user facility community, possibility of webcasting some sessions) (**Al, Fred, Laura**).
7. Upcoming events (Al)
- a. Nothing new since last time, everything is on the calendar.

Next telecon date: Tuesday March 5, 2013, at 1:00pm EST