

SHUG-EC Conference Call: Tues. Dec. 8, 2020

Online:

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

Document approval:

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

1. NSD update

- SNS began a planned long outage in late November and it will 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.
 - Modifications to the existing fuel elements to prevent plate deflections and fabrication of new fuel elements more robust against plate deflections are now in progress, which represent two different paths toward restart. These activities will take a significant amount of time, so the earliest that HFIR will resume operations is early February.

2. SHUG-EC elections

- 297 members voted
- Four elected members for January: Yun Liu, Rana Ashkar, Travis Williams, Lisa DeBeer-Schmitt
- Special thanks to outgoing members Adam Aczel, Eugene Mamontov, Ally Fry-Petit, and Dvora Perahia

3. Remote experiment participant interviews

- 200 user surveys, 35 responses
- Remote experiments ran between July 1 and Sept. 30
- Survey consisted of 8 questions covering topics such as instrument familiarity, communication between instrument teams and users, and data reduction, visualization, and analysis
- One key worry from professors is that their graduate students and postdocs miss key training opportunities by only participating in remote user experiments
- Another worry is that some of the beamline scientists are getting burned out from running too many remote user experiments
- Mixed view on completely moving to remote experiment format and this is certainly not possible on many of the neutron scattering instruments

4. 2021 user meeting (joint with CNMS)

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- Janell reached out to CNMS personnel to discuss the 2021 user meeting
- Since it is difficult to host the meeting jointly with CNMS, it may be better to hold two separate meetings back-to-back or with a small amount of overlap
- Coordination and planning for this meeting should really ramp up in Jan. 2021
- Need to ensure that this meeting doesn't conflict with important conferences, workshops, or summer schools elsewhere

5. Beamtime access taskforce

- There is some concern that beamtime will be difficult to come by when SNS is down for PPU, HFIR is down for the Be reflector plug change, and NIST also enters a long, planned outage
- Dvora volunteered to lead a beamtime access taskforce to come up with ideas on how to address this upcoming beamtime shortage, but she was not on this call so this topic will be deferred until later
- Since Dvora is now rotating off the SHUG-EC, someone else needs to volunteer to lead this taskforce if the SHUG-EC wants to continue pursuing this initiative

6. Next conference call: Jan. 12, 2021, 4 PM