

SHUG-EC Conference Call: Wednesday, October 11, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST

Attendees (online):

ORNL: Janell Thomson, Travis Williams, Naresh Osti

External: Igor Zaliznyak, Amy Xu, Rana Ashkar, Yun Liu, Peter Gilbert, Yulia Zaikina, Benjamin Frandsen

Discussion items:

1. NScD questions and focus points
 - a. What does SHUG do for increasing diversity and expanding the user community?
 - i. Will administer a comprehensive user survey to understand our user community and their needs/concerns
 - b. NScD goal: improve the publication rate and impact factor. Jens suggests that 1 publication for 1 experiment or even 2 publications for 1 experiment is ideal.
 - i. That may be unrealistic. Current ratio of 1 publication for every 2.5 experiments is actually pretty good.
 - ii. To improve the publication rate, it may be useful to dedicate more resources to help users.
 - iii. Include a question or two about this issue on the user survey. What is realistically attainable? What would users need to improve the publication rate?
 - iv. Focusing too much on the improvement of the publication rate could come at the detriment of the quality of the science being published; often the best papers involve multiple techniques, multiple experiments at ORNL to show how the data fit together
 - v. In internal NSD committee on publications has been formed, they'll start meeting in the next few weeks.
 - c. Any systemic biases in the review process?
 - i. We will also ask about this in the user survey
 - ii. Bias can be applied against people who focus on quality of publications based on previous experiments rather than quantity
 - d. We will start a Google Doc draft of the survey questions.
 - e. Outreach Coordinator job description is currently going through iterations. Should be posted in a couple of weeks.
 - i. Janell will send to SHUG-EC
2. Brian Toby's event for Bob Von Dreele
 - a. Send out email to our mailing list
 - b. Forward this to NSSA as well so they can advertise it
 - c. Direct all suggestions for speakers or questions about the event to Brian Toby
3. On-site report
 - a. As the individual sections are completed, we will want to make sure all the recommendations are self-consistent; discussions about this can be carried out in Slack so we don't have to wait until our monthly meeting.

- b. Goal is to produce a list of actionable items; need to be specific in our recommendations and make the benefit to the user community very clear. We want to contextualize everything in terms of the user community.
 - c. Discussion around software list—the biggest deficiency seems to be regarding Mantid. No information is provided about which Mantid algorithms have been successfully used and validated for specific purposes on various SNS/HFIR instruments.
 - d. Continued fine-tuning of the software recommendations offline.
 - e. DEI discussion with staff—consolidate into the DEI discussion with the leadership. Need to be careful with our recommendations to demonstrate the connection to the user community.
 - f. Rebecca will finish her sections today, then everything should be complete. Then everyone should read the document and use “Suggestion mode” to make their suggestions. We will finish discussing on Slack.
4. Election update—Mingda absent, so we will ask him to update us on Slack. Janell requests the list of EC nominations and bios by October 23.