

SHUG (SNS HFIR User Group), <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/shug/index.shtml>

SHUG executive committee minutes.

Teleconference held April 7, 2009.

Attendees:

Executive Committee: Mike Crawford, Seung-Hun Lee, Cora Lind, Flora Meilleur, Ursula Perez-Salas, Matthew Stone, Patrick Woodward, Stephen Wilson, Igor Zaliznyak, Mark Dadmun

Guests: Ken Herwig

Minutes Submitted to Mike Crawford April 11, 2009 by M. B. Stone.

Minutes Resubmitted with corrections to Al Ekkebus and Mike Crawford April 22, 2009, by M. B. Stone.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Ken Herwig -The SHUG executive committee asked that the software overview document described below be presented to the SHUG for input and comments.
- Mike Crawford - The committee noted that we would like to regularly include management updates and potential additional discussion at the SHUG teleconferences. Suggested regularity was every other month.
- Mike Crawford and Al Ekkebus – The committee noted that they would like to see a summary of the user statistics and comments from users every six months.
- Entire Committee, please sign up for the google interest group which Cora Lind established (invitation received via email).
- Mike Crawford and Al Ekkebus – The executive committee would like to request the user comment form for SNS and HFIR users to also include a link to the SHUG web-page, a sentence about SHUG, and an invitation to register for the SHUG google group.
- Mike Crawford – The executive committee indicated that it would like to establish communication with JINS. Mike will write a letter/email to Takeshi Egami (UT) the director of JINS and invite him to a future teleconference.
- Matt Stone, Lou Santodonato, and Al Ekkebus – Survey to users concerning sample environment.
- Al Ekkebus - On-site housing, food service and shuttle service. The executive committee would like to know the goals from management regarding these services and the timeline of establishing services.
- Al Ekkebus – The executive committee would like the beam proposal evaluation process (i.e. different committee stages, committee names, and timeline) to be documented on the proposal web-site.
- Entire Committee, please nominate people for Science Review Committee Members. These members evaluate beam time proposals. Send nominations to Mike Crawford (Michael.K.Crawford@usa.dupont.com), and Mike will forward to Judy Trimble (Manager of the User Office Group).

I. Report from Ken Herwig

- Ken thanked the SHUG for participation in the 2009 BES review of the NSSD.
- Ken presented a summary of the BES review.
 - 14 or 15 reviewers, 3.5 days at the facilities (HFIR and SNS).
 - Likely concentrating on evaluating productivity, reliability, staffing and operations.
 - There were science talks and breakout sessions with NSSD staff.
 - Ken expects the report from the committee to be weighted toward comments concerning instrumentation.
 - Ken expects the report to be received from the BES committee in 5-6 weeks.
- Based upon the BES review, Ken is initiating work in the following areas:
 - Software – Igor Z. emphasized that a very top-level document describing the needed software should be produced including comments on reduction and analysis and an indication of what will be achieved and when it will be achieved. Such documents would not go into specifics regarding instruments or types of experiments. The SHUG asked that such a document be presented to the SHUG for input and comments.
 - User experience, especially sample environment needs.
- Ken noted that the Spin-Echo instrument (BL15) will be opening its shutter in the April beam cycle, and it is expected to be in the user program by the end of 2009.
- Ken indicated that powgen3 has a goal to be an operational instrument by the end of April. Most in-plane detectors are in place, more detectors will be installed in September and the end of 2009

II. Impressions of BES review

- The executive committee noted that the BES reviewers may have been concerned about a potential lack of user experience at the SNS and HFIR facilities on behalf of the SHUG executive committee. The committee discussed that this in fact is a reflection of the growing user community at SNS and HFIR, and that the committee members do have significant experience at other neutron scattering facilities.

III. The Role of SHUG and goals 2009

- From the bylaws posted online: The purpose of the SHUG is to:
 - Provide a formal and clear channel for the exchange of information and advice between the investigators who perform neutron scattering and neutron science experiments at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the management of the Spallation Neutron Source, the High Flux Isotope Reactor, and the Joint Institute for Neutron Science (JINS).
 - Serve as an advocacy group for the neutron scattering and neutron science activities at SNS and HFIR.
 - Provide a communication channel among users of SNS and HFIR.
- The executive committee discussed the goals of SHUG this year to be
 - New user recruitment
 - Improving the user experience at the facilities.

- Improving communication channels between SHUG executive committee, NSSD management and Users
- Additional discussion of goals at next meeting.

IV. Communication

- Cora Lind established a SHUG google interest group as an opportunity for communication within the user community.

V. JINS (The Joint Institute for Neutron Sciences) <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/jins/index.shtml>

- JINS is mentioned directly in the bylaws of the SHUG (see above)
- Mark Dadmun (UT) is a member of JINS
- The JINS building is currently under construction and will be located adjacent to the SNS office building and the CNMS building.
- Some elements of JINS are:
 - Education of users and potential users
 - Services to users
 - Office space, complementary lab space
 - education activities
 - Currently there is no administrative relationship between SHUG and JINS

VI. Improving the Users experience at SNS and HFIR

- A Survey will be initiated with the sample environment group to survey what sample environments people want to use and pursue (Matt Stone and Al Ekkebus and Lou Santodonato)
- On-site housing, food service and shuttle service. The executive committee would like to know the goals from management regarding these services and the timeline of establishing services.
- The SHUG and executive committee can also serve as an advocate for instrument scientists' needs.

VII. User meeting in September 2009

- Theme of some/several sessions at the meeting will be energy related.
 - H-storage, Advanced batteries, fuel cells, photo-voltaics, Bio-based
- General materials sessions will also be included.
- The suggestion was also made that a special session at the user meeting dedicated to software would be useful.
- Meeting will likely be held in conjunction with CNMS and Oak Ridge Users Week

VIII. Representation within beam allocation committees.

- Another suggestion was made that some SHUG executive committee members should serve on the proposal review committees that recommend beamtime allocations in the different science areas that we represent in order for us to have more involvement in the user community.
- Judy Trimble indicated via email that SHUG members including executive members are eligible to be for the Science Review Committees.
- Judy communicated by email that : "...As a result, more Science Review Committee Members (SRCMs) are needed. The SRCMs evaluate reviews, rank proposals, and recommend beam days. The SRCM roles and responsibilities description and a list of current members are attached. We invite SHUG to nominate individuals for SRCM in the following areas: Diffraction – powders, Low Q (SANS and Reflectometers) – soft matter polymers, Time of Flight Inelastic – hard condensed matter. Please provide nominations to me by Friday, May 1, 2009