

Minutes of SHUG Executive Committee Meeting of December 6, 2000

The Executive Committee convened by conference call at 9:00 AM EDT on December 6, 2000. Of the 11 committee members 9 were present. The members in attendance were:

- Meigan Aronson
- Dave Belanger
- Paul Butler
- Takeshi Egami
- Robert McQueeney
- Scott Mixture
- John Tranquada
- David Vaknin
- Angus Wilkinson

Dave Belanger opened the meeting by giving a brief summary of his conversation with Mason and Moncton regarding the results of the recent DOE review of the SNS project, indicating that Mason and Moncton would like the chance to speak to the group directly in more detail in the near future. The main point was that while there are two items causing upward pressure on the project cost, DOE is adamant that the total project cost will not increase, suggesting instead the elimination of the Central Lab and Office building (CLO) and relaxing the aggressive construction schedule for a finish in 2006 instead of 2005. Moncton points out that this last would add roughly \$300 million to the total project not reduce the cost. The two items of main concern are the cost of the CLO which is being estimated now at \$80 million over the original estimate of \$300 million though Moncton seems to think that is an overestimate and feels it could be brought into range, and the cost of co-ordinating and running the Accelerator facility. Apparently, while the Accelerator facility is being built by another lab, the cost of co-ordinating it with the rest of the project and the staffing for running the facility once on line were never included in the original budget and it was assumed it would come out of other ORNL funds. Obviously inclusion of this item into the base SNS project would increase the project cost by that amount. The main point was that Moncton and

Mason wanted to assure us that they understand the concerns these events might pose to the users and are working diligently to remedy the problems.

Next on the agenda was an update by Paul Butler on the HFIR tritium leak. Paul explained that the "leak" was essentially due to a dilution effect. It turns out that a small amount of tritium, coming mainly from the air conditioning condensate has always been in that drain. However, that drain also carries the overflow from the cooling towers which is a considerable amount of water. Once the cooling towers were torn down for construction of the new towers, that water was no longer flowing, with the result that an undetectable concentration of tritium became detectable. Apparently the total amount of tritium being dumped has always been known and was reported to DOE, EPA and the state of TN back when the drains were first installed. Furthermore, even the concentration levels detected were well below reportable levels. ORNL management chose to report them nonetheless. Having done so, they must propose a plan of action (and have done so) which includes replacing the earthenware pipes with stainless steel to prevent any seepage that might occur in the future and rerouting the offending condensate waste to processing tanks, thereby eliminating the source. The plan is subject to DOE approval and a team was on site last week to make that determination. Paul said that Jim Roberto indicated he believed they would be given approval. Furthermore, news of this "leak" has not caused any perceptible concern in the neighboring population. Unfortunately for the HFIR project however, as a result of trying to determine the cause of the increased tritium concentration it was discovered that the tanks which were to hold the HFIR pool water during the work on the reactor were not at all adequate for the task. Replacing them would cost over a million dollars and a "very long time." In the end they have opted for buying huge stainless tanks to sit on the ground which can house the water and allow work to proceed more quickly. The hope is that the tanks will be delivered the first week of January. This delay will cause the whole schedule to slip. Also the HFIR will have to undergo a readiness review before coming back on line. Furthermore, the unexpected costs associated with fixing the tritium problem will require some source of funding. A number of possibilities are being investigated including delaying the second cold guide hall building till next fiscal year. No decisions have yet been made.

Dave next indicated that NSSA had agreed at their last meeting to commit to a joint conference at SNS rather than NIST and that we needed to form a joint committee

with NSSA to deal with that. No volunteers were forthcoming and the issue was left for the next meeting

Dave then noted that the following two items on the agenda:

1) Subcommittee Reports for HFIR and SNS and

2) User Programs at HFIR and SNS and how to proceed

were perhaps not addressable since one of the Subcommittee chairs (Costas Stassis) was not present. Paul indicated that from conversations with Costas and with ORNL neutron scattering staff he could report that no action had been taken by the HFIR committee vis a vis contacting the HFIR neutron scattering management. Rob McQueeney indicated the same was true for the SNS sub-committee.

Paul Butler then told the committee that Bryan Chakoumakos had assembled a couple of people (outside the neutron scattering staff scientist and including Kaye Carter, HFIR user co-ordinator) to get started on designing a new user program and had invited Paul to join the meeting. Also joining that meeting was Al Ekkebus, the new SNS user co-ordinator. Paul suggested that his impression of Al was that he was very pro-active and very interested in serving the user community and would be an excellent person with whom to work. On the other hand Paul doesn't think Bryan has much support from his management on his initiative and that Bryan seems to be hoping for support from SHUG. Paul also said that at the meeting he obtained a copy of the results of the user survey that is handed out to users and had received permission to share it with SHUG. He did not think the responses were anonymous however.

Since Bryan was hoping SHUG would produce a proposal for the user program and since SHUG seems to want to wait for HFIR and SNS to come up with a proposal first, Paul said he'd told Bryan's group that he would take a stab at creating a straw man user program proposal and present it simultaneously to SHUG and HFIR with a self imposed deadline of the January SHUG executive committee meeting.

Comments were made that this really needed a lot of thought and discussion and that, for example the, current HFIR program has many problems such as short lead times for experiments, the ad hoc nature of the whole program and an excessive amount of power vested in the instrument scientist leading to certain amount of the "good ol' boy network" syndrome and the potential for much more. Paul agreed whole heartedly, but pointed out again that he is suggesting a "staw man" i.e. something to give traction to those thoughts and discussions. Meigan asked about the electronic user satisfaction survey that had been sent out and whether we could

see those results. Paul indicated he would talk to Kaye Carter about that and email the committee with the answer.

Finally the web page progress was discussed. Paul indicated nothing had happened since the last meeting but that he was hoping to work with Charlie Horack to get them to a minimum presentable level sometime in early January with the goal of making them public and "advertising" them. Enhancements could then be added slowly as time permits.

Before adjourning, Dave indicated that two possible dates for the briefing by Mason and Moncton were the 13th and the 20th and asked for input on best times as we want as many of us as possible present. The 13th seemed to be a preference, but Dave decided he would resolve the final date by email. He also indicated that he would like people to start thinking about when they could meet during the upcoming spring semester.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned around 9:45 EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Butler

SHUG Secretary

Minutes of SHUG Executive Committee Meeting of September 28, 2000

The Executive Committee convened by conference call at 9:30 AM EDT on September 28, 2000. Of the 11 committee members 8 were present. The members in attendance were:

- Dave Belanger
- Paul Butler
- Robert McQueeney
- Scott Mixture
- Constantine Stassis
- John Tranquada
- Angus Wilkinson
- Andrey Zheludev

The first item of business covered was planning of the 2002 SNS User's meeting. The main issue before the committee was a request by NSSA for a commitment from SHUG on the plan for a joint NSSA/SHUG meeting. The fact that the original plan for the NSSA meeting identified NIST as the venue was brought up. Dave Belanger indicated that his understanding was that NSSA is willing to move it to Oak Ridge, but would like to have a firm commitment from SHUG before proceeding. It was agreed in the end that SHUG was willing to commit to the joint meeting at Oak Ridge. However some members felt that in turn they would like a firm agreement from NSSA before proceeding to contact and hold discussions with SNS management. Dave Belanger was asked to bring that up at the next NSSA meeting. The issue of whether this would be/should be an SNS user meeting or a SHUG user meeting (which would include HFIR) was raised and briefly discussed. Next the issue of user policies was discussed. With HFIR coming on line for users relatively soon the suggestion was made that the HFIR special committee begin consideration of user policy issues (beam time allocation, proposal reviews, access issues, software issues etc...) Several people indicated that it is very important that these policies be consistent across the two facilities and a suggestion was made that perhaps both special committees should begin thinking about the issues, reporting back to the full committee to ensure a consistent message is sent to the

various managements. A point was then made that SHUG should not be creating policy, but advising on how to change existing policy and that perhaps we should start by finding out what the existing policy is. It was agreed that the two special committee chairs (Costas Stassis and Rob McQueeney) would write to their respective facility contacts and request an official statement regarding current and planned user policies.

Along these lines, a concern was raised about software at HFIR. While it was acknowledged that some of the much needed software improvements may be in progress at HFIR, it is not clear that there is any leadership, or "guiding intelligence" which would ensure some degree of consistency and help develop a uniform interface. The point was raised that this might be an issue more appropriately dealt with by the HFIR special committee.

Next Paul Butler gave a brief report on the status of the current HFIR upgrades. The reactor was running till the weekend when it would be shutdown for the 6 month beryllium reflector change out. All instruments and equipment had already been removed from the beam room and were being stored in the recently built storage shed adjacent to HB4. This building will eventually house the cold guides and cold triple axes, while the two SANS instruments will be housed in a building which will be built onto the existing building. The preliminary design for this second building had been completed and handed over to an architectural and engineering firm who's work was scheduled to be completed by the end of September. The thermal guides are being fabricated by CILAS while most (but not all) of the cold guides have been ordered. The current schedule calls for the reactor to come back up before March 1, 2001 and for the thermal instruments to start coming on line by Aug of 2001. The second guide hall is scheduled for completion in March of 2002, with the first SANS machine being in place by August of 2002. Paul pointed out that this is a very aggressive schedule and that while the change out will no doubt occur on schedule, considering the large number of factors involved in the instrument startup their schedules could easily slip.

The question was then asked about of the status of funding for SNS, and Paul Butler indicated that he had just received word that it had received full funding in the conference committee. There was some confusion as to the exact meaning of "full" funding as well as to whether the funds would be available October 1 or whether a continuation resolution would be still be required to fill the gap.

The question of whether the SNS special committee should attend the November meeting at Argonne on the long wavelength target station was brought up next. A

couple of the members present indicated they would be attending anyway in other capacities and it was decided that no "formal" presence was required.

The question of the approval of minutes was addressed next. Paul Butler indicated that while most committee members had agreed with the original proposal of one week for comments there were a couple of suggestions that a longer time would be reasonable (ranging from 2 to 4 weeks). Paul Butler requested that he get some formal guidance (in the form of a vote) as to when the minutes could be made public (available to anyone upon request). The committee voted unanimously to set 2 weeks from the last comment on the minutes to make them officially accepted. Discussion then moved to the web pages. The biggest concern was that the SNS logo appeared at the top of all the pages but that there is no mention of HFIR anywhere except in the body of the text describing SHUG. The suggestion was made that either SNS refrain from putting their logo on our pages (even though we are using their server and their staff to put it together) or that the HFIR logo be placed on the page as well. Paul Butler agreed to look into the possibilities. Also a couple of ideas were brought up, including removing the fax numbers from the list of members and replacing it with linked email addresses, and making the name links point to individual home pages

Finally, the issue of future meeting times was discussed. It was pointed out that several members had been unable to join this meeting. After a brief deliberation it was agreed that in general the 9:30EDT slot was probably still the best for now. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Butler

SHUG Secretary

Minutes of SHUG Executive Committee Meeting of July 10, 2000

The Executive Committee convened by conference call at 9:30 AM EDT on July 10, 2000. Of the 11 committee members 8 were present. The members in "attendance" were:

- Meigan Aronson
- Dave Belanger
- Paul Butler
- Takeshi Egami
- Scott Misture
- Constantine Stassis
- John Tranquada
- Angus Wilkinson

The first item of business was to approve the Special Committee membership lists. There were no objections to the proposed list which was therefore accepted. The memberships are:

SNS Special Committee:

- Robert McQueeney, chair
- Meigan Aronson
- Paul Butler
- Takeshi Egami
- Scott Misture
- John Tranquada
- David Vaknin
- Angus Wilkinson

HFIR Special Committee:

- Costas Stassis, chair

- David Belanger
- Paul Butler
- Takeshi Egami
- Andrey Zheludev

The second item of business discussed was the question of sending a letter to the Senate expressing our serious concern for the lack of support in the proposed budgets for SNS. First it was decided that the house should get a copy of the letter as well. The question of letterhead was raised. Discussion ensued regarding whether to spend the time now to create a letterhead for the organization or just use UCSC letterhead (home institution of the SHUG Executive Committee Chair). The latter was the preferred choice. Also brought up was the possibility of adding the SNS logo to the UCSC stationary, but it was thought that would send the wrong message. Dave Belanger agreed to formulate such a letter quickly and circulate it to the EC for suggestions/approval before sending it out on UCSC letterhead. The point was also made that the NSSA is drafting a letter and that we should not duplicate theirs.

The next item discussed was whether it would be appropriate to plan our next user's meeting, currently scheduled for 2002, in conjunction with the NSSA meeting being planned for that time as well. The question of whether this was to be a jointly sponsored meeting or separate meetings scheduled for the same time and place was raised. It was suggested that that issue could be resolved later, but that it would be nice to be able to tell NSSA soon whether we would be willing to meet at least at the same time and place. SNS management does not seem to be keen on the idea but it was unclear as to why. The point was made that as users we'd rather not be inundated with user meetings. There were no objections to having the meeting "together" and Dave was to inform Jim Rhyne, NSSA president, of our willingness to co-operate.

During the above discussions a recurring question was the issue of communication with the membership (echoing questions from previous meetings of "who are the members"). Paul Butler indicated that he is talking with Joyce Shepard of SNS about getting hold of their list but that apparently the only list they have melds the NSSA membership list with the people who attended the last user's meeting. Joyce did not know of a list of those who attended the first meeting. Again the question was raised of who gets included. Paul Butler indicated that some people had expressed concern to him at the meeting in DC that by having an ill-defined membership

SHUG might end up claiming the entire NSSA membership plus, making things a bit confusing as to what role each is playing and which is the umbrella advocacy group. In the end it was agreed that we should try to reach "every neutron scatterer we can lay our hands on" and allow them to decide whether they want to be SHUG members. It was also noted that HFIR being an operating facility must have a well defined user list somewhere. Paul agreed to try to get hold of that list and to continue working with Joyce on getting the larger list.

Next the Web page plan was discussed. Dave said that Joyce has indicated that SNS has the expertise to create and maintain the pages for us if we'll tell them what we want. The first thing suggested was of course an easy web form for applying for membership as well as links to and from SNS pages. In particular it was suggested that links to and from IAT (instrument advisory teams) pages be made as these would be of particular interest to users. Also information about the EC members (who we are and who is on which special committees etc) should be available.

A suggestion was made to the HFIR committee to use the long HFIR shutdown as an opportunity to provide significant input on HFIR operations by polling the HFIR user community and coming up with some "new ideas" and suggestions to present to the HFIR management. The issue of who such suggestions would be taken to was briefly discussed. SNS has a clearly defined management structure while it is not as clear for HFIR. Paul Butler indicated that for the time being the "official" person is Jim Roberto.

Finally Dave Belanger announced that Thom Mason of SNS has informed him that SNS is in the process of getting its own teleconferencing services set up which include a toll free (1-800 number) to call into, and that we should be able to use that for next month's conference call.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Butler

SHUG Secretary