

NCNR User Group (NUG) Executive Committee
Minutes from conference call on June 7, 2017

Present from NIST: Dan Neumann, Julie Borchers, Bill Kamitakahara, Rob Dimeo,
Present NUG executive committee members: Megan Robertson, Mike Crawford, Rafael Verduzco,
Carlos Lopez-Barron, Dmitry Reznik, Julie Hipp

Topic 1: Update from Dan on NIST facilities and operations

Shutdown in September 10 to replace shim-arms and primary pumps for the reactor, other work at NCNR. President's budget would cut NIST funding by 13 % and necessitate shutting down instruments. Deadline for Congress to pass a new budget is Sept. 30. December is the 50h anniversary for the cold source reactor.

Topic 2: Welcome to new members and Introductions

Short introductions of the committee members and NCNR staff to one another.

Topic 3: Thank you for contributions to cost of reactor fuel

Thank you letters were sent to NIST department heads for contributing to the cost of reactor fuel.

All letters have been sent by Carlos:

- Dr. Kent Rochford, Acting Director
- Dr. Laurie Locascio, Acting Associate Director for Laboratory Programs
- Dr. Charles Romine, Director for ITL
- Dr. Robert Celotta, Director for CNST
- Dr. Howard Harary, Director for EL
- Dr. James Olthoff, Director for PML
- Dr. Michael Fasolka, Acting Director for MML
- Dereck Orr, Acting Director CTL

Topic 4: Update to NCNR Website

Website includes meeting minutes, responsibilities for committee, and committee members. No comments were given except that the website is a big improvement.

Topic 5: Exit Survey

Dan Neumann said he is OK with the survey and likes open ended comments. Dmitry said he likes the survey is shorter, but thinks it would be good to add a question about what users think is most important to them and how the NCNR can improve. Provide a list of options for users to select from. Dmitry also suggested having separate questions regarding software, sample environment, user proposal. Megan suggested we include a question about why users come to the NCNR to do experiments and what brings them to the NCNR. Dan explained the process for sending users the survey. Survey can be sent at the end of the experiment or at the end of the reactor cycle. Alternative is to have users fill out the survey online through a link from the homepage and have results sent to NIST.

Action Item: Rafael will modify survey, send to Dmitri, then send back to the committee for comment. An online survey link will be created for the survey. Add a question about research area and how many times the user has been to the NCNR. Dmitry raised the issue that it may be difficult to sort responses if we have only open-ended responses. This makes it hard to sort and process responses. Megan and Dan pointed out this survey is designed to solicit comments. Julie suggested that if we include research areas we should follow the areas listed in the proposal. Survey Monkey and fillable PDF that goes directly to an Excel spreadsheet is an option. Megan and Dan noted the survey can always be revised.

Topic 6: Update on CHRNS review

Dan said the review went well, NSF was very impressed and complimentary about science and education. The main critique was that the NCNR was not very good at distinguishing CHRNS from NCNR. From the NSF point of view, the credit mostly falls to the NCNR. The NSF provided a list of recommendations. To address this, communications will have more specific CHRNS interactions. The NSF requested that the executive committee name a CHRNS representative on the user committee to look out for CHRNS/NSF interests. They also requested a committee to help brand CHRNS better and to help with the next NSF proposal for CHRNS. Dan requested committee members think about this and consider participating. Dan briefly explained how the NSF review of CHRNS goes. The committee discussed ways we could make clear the CHRNS contributions to NIST.

Action Item: Request for a NUG member to become a CHRNS representative

Topic 7: NCNR Website

Dan mentioned that a new website will be going up soon and that we could give them feedback.

Topic 8: Scheduling next phone call

Target two months, mid-August for the next meeting. Avoid conflict with ACS meeting.