

SNS HFIR User Group (SHUG) Executive Committee Minutes
Archived at <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/users/shug/>

Teleconference held January 10, 2012, 1:00pm EST.

Attendees:

- Executive Committee: Greg Beaucage (chair), Dave Belanger, Yun Gao, Malcolm Guthrie, Peter Khalifah, Cora Lind, and Michael Mackay.
- Guests: Robert McGreevy, Laura Edwards, Al Ekkebus.

Minutes submitted for review January 27, 2012 by A. E. Ekkebus.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Al Ekkebus was requested to ask Fred Heberle to act as secretary for SHUG.
- Al Ekkebus will distribute the NUFO poster upgrades to SHUG when they are complete and on the NUFO website.
- Election of the vice chair/chair-elect will occur in the next 1-2 months.
- Discussion about increasing neutron scattering by users supported by industry will occur at the March 6 meeting.

WEBSITES of interest from the teleconference:

- NUFO, the National User Facilities Organization, <http://nufo.org/>.

1. Status Updates (Robert McGreevy)

SNS is in a long shutdown maintenance period and due to come back up for neutron production and users on February 14, 2012. HFIR restarted with full neutron production on Monday, January 9, and shut down in the morning due to a reduction in primary coolant flow.

The FY2012 budget details are arriving. The SNS and HFIR budgets are slightly reduced from the current planning numbers. To achieve these budgets, changes being considered include reducing the SNS schedule by 500 operating hours, and potentially reducing one cycle this fiscal year at HFIR.

Progress is being made in solving both the hardware and software problems associated with the TOPAZ detectors. These have the same detector design as in the MaNDI and SNAP instruments. The new HFIR Bio-SANS detector is up and running. The SNS VISION instrument will go through an instrument readiness review in the next few months.

2. User Office Updates (Laura Edwards)

Laura succeeded Judy Trimble as head of the User Office. The next call for proposals will close February 22; see details at <http://neutrons.ornl.gov/users/proposals.shtml>. The Materials Research Society will hold its spring meeting during the period suggested for the Science Review Committee (SRC) meeting so we are exploring options for changing the SRC dates.

The ORNL Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences (CNMS) will hold its user meeting during September 10-14, 2012. In discussing the possibility of a joint meeting, the consensus of the group was that the DOE light sources hold joint meetings with their adjacent nanocenters, so ORNL should do this if the scheduling is satisfactory and appropriate programs can be developed.

3. Other business

Yan Gao asked about industrial-specific policies and outreach. This will be discussed at the March SHUG teleconference.

The National User Facility Organization has been invited by Members of Congress to exhibit on Capitol Hill to “educate Members and staff about the research being done by the users of the national laboratories and how their work benefits our nation.” No date has been determined although February-March 2012 dates are being discussed.

Next telecon date: Tuesday February 7, 2012, at 1 PM EST.