

## **NCNR User Group (NUG) Executive Committee Minutes from conference call on March 30, 2015**

Present from NIST:

Present NUG executive committee members:

### **Topic 1: Introductions**

The new members of the NUG executive committee are: Igor Zaliznyak, Rafael Verduzco, Michael Crawford, and Amber Larson. Megan Robertson will continue as the Secretary. Nominations for Vice-Chair are requested.

### **Topic 2: Web-Based Meetings**

The potential use of webex or other web-based video conferencing software was discussed. Issues were addressed regarding access to either commercial software or freeware.

### **Topic 3: Letter of Support to Congress for NCNR Budget**

The 2016 budget is currently being deliberated by the Senate and House Commerce Appropriations Subcommittees. This budget contains \$11 million for the NCNR (almost 25% increase over the current budget). These funds are needed for the following activities: 1) purchase reactor fuel, 2) upgrade primary cooling systems, 3) purchase new heavy water, and 4) develop 1-2 new scientific instruments. The NUG executive committee will draft a letter to send to the House and Senate subcommittee members. In addition, an email will be sent to NUG, requesting members to send personal letters to their senators and representatives. The involvement of NSSA in this effort will be pursued. Alan will draft the letter to be sent on behalf of the executive committee. Megan and Igor will take the lead on drafting the email to NUG.

### **Topic 4: Survey of the NCNR User Group**

The NUG executive committee will conduct a survey of NCNR users. This is an important activity which provides essential feedback to the NCNR.

### **Topic 5: CHRNS Review**

The CHRNS review committee requested a more formal mechanism for users to contact the NUG executive committee with feedback on the NCNR (anonymous or not). The current NUG website is hosted through Indiana University, and there is no place to submit comments. The website also contains outdated information. One suggestion was provided that the users could be requested to complete a satisfaction survey after their experiment is finished. A web link to the NUG website could be sent a few days after the end of the experiment (once the user has returned to their home institution). The comments would go directly to the NCNR.

**Topic 6: NUFO**

NUFO will be held on April 21-23 at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. NIST and the NUG Executive Committee will not be represented at NUFO this year, but will still maintain a presence in the organization for the future.

**Topic 7: New Business**

No new business was presented.