

**NCNR User Group (NUG) Executive Committee
Minutes from conference call on February 16, 2018**

Present from NIST: Dan Neumann, Julie Borchers, Rob Dimeo

Present NUG executive committee members: Megan Robertson, Mike Crawford, Rafael Verduzco, Julie Hipp

Topic 1: NSSA Booth at APS Meeting

The Neutron Scattering Society of America (NSSA) will have a booth at the March 2018 APS meeting. The NSSA is recruiting volunteers to do a 1 hour shift at the booth, Megan will send out a link to a web calendar. The NCNR will provide a poster and brochures for the booth.

Topic 2: NCNR Update

The NCNR has been receiving strong support from senior NIST management and Department of Commerce. There have been two government shutdowns and management has been very supportive of maintaining operations at the NCNR. The President's FY19 budget has significant cuts to NIST and NCNR, but similar cuts from FY18 were never realized. With the lifted spending caps, NCNR is optimistic about the future budget, but there is still a lot of uncertainty.

Primary and secondary cooling systems have been completely modernized and other operations improvements were made during the recent shutdown.

Julie reminded everyone about the NCNR summer school June 19-23, and the topic is SANS and reflectometry. The school precedes the ACNS meeting at the University of Maryland.

On April 10, there will be an NSF site visit for a CHRNS review. They would like NUG representatives to call in on April 10.

Action item: NUG executive committee representatives will participate in the April 10 conference call with the CHRNS review panel.

A committee is forming to discuss the future of CHRNS. Dmitry is the NUG representative on the committee. Jim Ryan is the committee chair. The committee will discuss CHRNS and find ways to strengthen the next CHRNS renewal proposal, and continue to improve the CHRNS program. They are open to ideas from NUG and others. The NUG executive committee will discuss CHRNS in more detail at a future meeting.

Action item: We will invite the CHRNS committee chair to a future NUG executive committee meeting to discuss CHRNS.

This summer there will be an assessment panel from the National Research Council in July. They are reviewing all aspects of the NCNR, from reactor operations to instrument support, etc.

Topic 3: NCNR Exit Surveys

The committee discussed how the information in the exit surveys should be disseminated to the NCNR. It was agreed that either PDF or excel formats will work, but that identifying information (such as dates of the survey response) should be removed. The surveys are otherwise anonymous (no names).

Current survey responses included requests for remote instrument access, difficulties in using or accessing Igor Pro (at home), and difficulties accessing computers in the user room. The NCNR will continue to monitor the survey responses and use this valuable feedback to make improvements to the facility.

Action item: Megan will export survey responses one week prior to each NUG executive committee meeting, and distribute to the NCNR (Dan, Julie and Rob) as well as the NUG executive committee. Each committee meeting will include a discussion of any relevant topics related to the survey responses.

Topic 4: Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held in the first week of April.