

08/13/2013 UEC lunch meeting notes

UEC Members attending: Nina Balke, Nazanin Bassiri-Gharb, Milan Buncick, Mike Hickner, Tony Hmelo (chair), Molly Kennedy, Vivek Prabhu, Megan Robertson, Ichiro Takeuchi, Rafael Verduzco

CNMS representatives: Sean Smith, Tony Haynes, Vivane Schwartz

DOE Guest: Linda Horton

Meeting convened approximately 12:40pm in Room 219 of ORNL Conference Center.

1. After an introduction by Tony Hmelo, Sean Smith provided a CNMS update that covered:
 - a. The current CNMS organizational structure and emphasis
 - b. CNMS mission and evaluation process
 - c. Research themes
 - d. Research group capabilities
 - e. User numbers and publications
 - f. User program proposals
 - g. Active user projects
 - h. Project effort and time
 - i. Emerging issues: User volume/sustainability, Integration of the SHARE facility in FY2014, user outreach
 - j. New Capital equipment: He-ion microscope
 - k. BES Triennial Review
 - l. Outreach: Facebook and the new website

UEC business meeting:

2. We covered the current UEC activities:
 - a. Monthly telecon: Keep it like it is.
 - b. Newsletter: Keep it like it is.
 - c. Organization of the user meeting: We're planning an after-action review at the next monthly telecon.
 - d. User feedback: We discussed the annual user survey and the suggestion box. Users have suggested the acquisition of new tools such as a 4-circle XRD and a micro-Raman coupled SPM. We agreed to add inputs from the suggestion box to our monthly telecon discussion.
 - e. Industrial Engagement: The UEC supports increased participation. We discussed how to provide outreach and engagement through contacts at conferences, adding a web page focused on industrial participation, and that we reach out to instrument manufacturers who have a vested interest in developing tools that would be sold to the center and users at their home facilities. Potential barrier discussed were timing of travel plans and proximity to the CNMS. We can ask the SNS to schedule their user meeting earlier to accommodate users who need to plan ahead. A specific outreach plan is needed if engagement is to be increased. We can ask users to add a slide at the end of a presentation that highlights the CNMS. We should have a meeting with the new CNMS industrial liaison, Adam Rondinone. Adam to meet with UEC members in Room 219 during the morning break on Wednesday.
 - f. NUFO Capital Hill: The meeting this year was much better than last year's meeting. Tony Hmelo, Vivek Prabhu and Molly Kennedy attended to represent the CNMS. They visited 8 congressional offices. The expo was very well attended with 8-10 congressmen visiting and several gave speeches.

3. 2013 UEC Elections: There are 2 nominations for vice chair, 1 for secretary and 7 for at-large seats that came from the email solicitation. There are three open at-large seats. Nominations continue through end of User Meeting on Wednesday.
4. Town Hall Meeting Agenda: there was a short discussion of the town hall meeting agenda. Tony moved to adopt the agenda and Nazanin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adopt.
5. UEC goals for 2013-2014:
 - a. Work on integration of the SHARE facility into the CNMS.
 - b. Keep the telecons going
 - c. Keep the newsletter going
 - d. Plan the next user meeting
 - e. Continue with NUFO participation
 - f. We discussed identifying a SHARE user for the user committee. Nina made a nomination and confirmed candidate's interest after the meeting.
 - g. Question posed: Are there things that the UEC can do to enhance the user experience that will not cost much in time or resources? Still open for discussion.
 - h. Question posed: Should we have a mandated representative from SHARE for UEC representation? We can do this but it will require a bylaw change. Still open for discussion.

Adjourned, 1:50pm.