

MEETING OF THE NHERI USER FORUM COMMITTEE
Mar 20, 2023

MINUTES

In attendance: Maggie, Esteban, Antonio, Mohammad, Wei, Stephanie Pilkington, Yazen, David, Sara, Kameshwar, Shane, Idil

1. Approval of meeting minutes from February 17, 2023.

MK moves, Wei seconds

2. Introduce one new member (Sara Hamideh)

New member Sara Hamideh introduced herself, rest of the members also gave short introductions.

3. New changes in the UF officer positions
 - MK: Stephanie Pilkington stepped down and Wei became the vice chair. Idil accepted to be the new secretary.
 - We have two subcommittees that need new representatives: Education and Outreach (Stephanie Paal is the representative) and Facilities (Claudia is the representative). We need at least 2 representatives so if one misses the meeting, we will have the other one to get the updates. Sara and Kameshwar will let MK know which one they want to join.
 - Stephanie Pilkington is leading the community and outreach committee. If there are any questions related to social media accounts she can answer questions.
4. Discussions on:
 - a. Summer Institute
 - MK: We have one face-to face meeting every year supported by NCO. We invite early faculty career members to learn about NHERI network and facilities. UF members attend too. We want to know how many people can attend to that meeting. The specific date is June 21-23.
 - Antonio: NCO supports expenses for attendance of UF members depending on the number of members there will be a flat rate amount for everyone who attends.
 - MK: UF members can be actively involved if they want to learn more about NHERI (especially early-career faculty) and engage in all the activities or just attend the UF meeting.
 - Antonio: face-to-face meeting is a mandate by NSF. UF has been taking

advantage of these meetings to meet with other committees too. It is an opportunity to interact with many NHERI members and committees.

- Federal employees cannot get support to attend.

b. Meeting with NCO

(Action item from previous meeting: to help new members get familiar with each subcommittee, when providing updates below for your subcommittee, please first introduce the general mission of the subcommittee and then the on-going long/short-term efforts.): this will be done next meeting because two members are not present.

MK: Everyone is encouraged to attend an NCO meeting. The meetings are every other week. The next one is this Friday 1-2:30 MT.

Action items: everyone let MK know by the end of the month if you'll attend the summer institute meeting.

5. Report from Graduate Students Council

Esteban: May 26th NHERI graduate student research conference. Abstracts are being reviewed now. Registration is open.

Maggie: Can we use that event to get feedback from grad students on user satisfaction?

Esteban and Maggie will communicate to plan.

MK: GSC can boost the number of responses from grad students.

6. Report from User Satisfaction Survey committee

Maggie presented user forum user satisfaction module data "Big Four" overview. Data was requested in January and responses were received in February. UC San Diego didn't respond because they didn't have users in 2022. Users gave overwhelmingly positive responses to all questions. Not many responses to open-ended questions. Users requested notifications for workshops sent earlier and not overlap with other major meetings.

Majority of the users did not review the NHERI Science Plan. We need to communicate this better to increase people's awareness.

MK: any idea to boost the number of participants will be great. We always have an issue with number of participants.

7. Report from NCO representatives

MK: Science Plan v2 will be out soon, by the end of April. It's in the final revision.
Some discussion on summer institute and REU program. More than 100 applicants for REU program.

Self-funded participants will be allowed in Summer Institute.

Antonio: UF will not be involved but the review of NCO by NSF will be on June 13th

8. Report from ECO representatives

None

9. Report from Facilities Scheduling representatives

Claudia (email update): reaching out to YouTubers and influencers to increase the visibility of research (PIs and facilities).

10. Report from Technology Transfer representatives

Shane: The committee is to help get research into practice through codes and standards. Committee helps the researchers to make the connections to facilitate the transfer of the technology. Industry and research community can make the transfer seamless.

Yazen: Additionally, the committee is working on DesignSafe search engine for easier access.

Update: the committee is working on mechanisms for implementation into codes and standards (white paper and set of videos to be put on DesignSafe YouTube).

11. Report from Communication and Outreach Subcommittee

S. Pilkington: Ways to increase the amount of content from the PIs (not facilities). Tall woods project is doing a great job on Twitter, for example. The committee can help the PIs to spread the word. Take pictures to be posted on social media. Something on this can be incorporated in the Summer Institute and REU.

Any other discussion? No

Meeting adjourned 1:59 PM (ET).