

MEETING OF THE NHERI USER FORUM COMMITTEE
September 18, 2023

MINUTES

Attending: Antonio, Idil, Mohammad, Kameshwar, Wei, David, S. Paal, Esteban, Yazen, S. Pilkington, Shane, Sara, Claudia

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

Mohammad moved, S. Paal seconded. No objections. Approved.

2. Report from Graduate Students Council

Esteban- We had a prior discussion on possibility to include a 5-min presentation on what NHERI is and overview of different facilities in the beginning of the GSC meeting. Esteban brought it up at the Executive Committee meeting. Final decision is to invite several people from NHERI to the general meetings (the meetings with the most attendance). The presentation on what NHERI is will be recorded and posted on NHERI website. Then, PIs from different facilities will talk about NHERI facilities and capabilities. Julio Ramirez was invited to the most recent meeting. He talked a lot about NHERI governance, the UF, survey, organizational structure and that was well-received.

Antonio- maybe Joy Pauschke would be a great speaker too, a great opportunity to be looking into the NSF side of things.

MK- Joy may overlap a lot with Julio. Inviting her may be better for a proposal workshop.

Stephanie Paal- This was discussed at the ECO meeting as well. ECO decided to send their videos from the Summer Institute that was held online during the pandemic.

Stephanie also suggested inviting a graduate student to talk about their experiences, or a post-doc, or an assistant professor- someone that is closer to whatever the student's next position would be. Students who want to be faculty would benefit from Joy's presentation a lot.

Esteban- We could have a separate early faculty workshop. He will follow up on this.

3. Report from User Satisfaction Survey committee

The UF survey is now closed (closed on the 15th with 74 responses). Maggie is working on a draft of the report and she will present a high level overview of findings next meeting.

4. Report from NCO representatives

Mohamad or Wei couldn't make it to the meeting. Updates are from Antonio and David.

Science Plan is still in the process. The plan is finished and they are working on the appendices. There is a lot of back and forth with the facilities to get information on their projects. The report will be complete in a few weeks and be published and disseminated.

There was an update on the education; outcomes from the Summer Institute, satisfaction survey, geographic locations, first-generation students, gender, etc. The data was very good and was perceived as a success.

There was discussion on another special issue for *Frontiers of the Built Environment* that is in the process of being set up. Facilities are being reached out to get articles for the special issue (expected May 2025 publication date).

Update on people from certain countries, visa status and DesignSafe issues - Julio reported that TACC, the entity who manages DesignSafe, says they will improve the message to make the registration requirements more clear. The visa information will still be required. It seems like there is not much that can be done.

MK- Can we ask NCO and NHERI to put an announcement on the access issue for the people from the 5 countries. Soome notification to the people whose account is affected will be good.

Antonio- Some clarification will be added but the details are not clear.

David- We also don't know yet where the message will be displayed. It is unclear if they will email to the affected accounts or post this information somewhere on the website.

Antonio suggested Mohammad, being the chair of the UF, should raise these concerns and makes the request because the concerns raised by him will have a different dimension. He can request this from DesignSafe, directly from the PI Ellen Rathje. It will be a better message than the NCO communicating the issue. Mohammad will draft a letter to be sent to Ellen.

Once again, anyone from UF is welcome to join any of the NCO meetings.

5. Report from ECO representatives

S. Paal- Esteban covered the GSC related updates.

There was a discussion on health care of REU students when they are on site and counseling services, whether universities offer it. They are thinking about making sure that either NHERI covers it or it is covered through project funds.

June 10-12 or June 12-14 were the two options for the Summer Institute. A little earlier than last year to avoid missing the faculty.

6. Report from Facilities Scheduling representatives

Kameshwar- Kameshwar met with Dan and discussed the DesignSafe issue. No updates on White House exhibit and display yet.

7. Report from Technology Transfer representatives

Yazen- DesignSafe is making progress in having an award database. Bill asked for a committee to identify the category of awards.

Yazen worked on a proposal related to liquefaction. There was an issue with sending invites and zoom link for DesignSafe regarding the meeting time zone. He will discuss the issue to get it fixed.

8. Report from Communication and Outreach Subcommittee

S. Pilkington shared updates on NHERI's engagement rate. The rate is 3.4%, seems excellent.

The Subcommittee wants to create a LinkedIn page because of the high engagements.

They will use a general UF email to setup the LinkedIn page.

Sim Center does very well.

Please use #NHERIspotlight #NSFstories when posting anything NHERI-related.

Antonio- Beginning of DesignSafe, they asked for an email for UF. There is an email that the UF has. Not sure if it is operational or not.

MK- That email is mostly for feedback. We can reach out to Marty to get login information and start using it for social media.

9. Other discussions

None

Adjourned at 10:43 am PT (Mohammed moved, Idil seconded).