

MEETING OF THE NHERI USER FORUM COMMITTEE
June 8, 2020

MINUTES

In Attendance: Stephanie, Antonio, David, Max, Mohammad, Jim, Liesel, Nina

1. Approval of meeting minutes from May 12, 2020 meeting

Stephanie made a motion to approve the minutes: Liesel second; no objections.

2. Report from User Satisfaction Survey committee

The user satisfaction survey was launched a couple weeks ago. There are currently 38 responses, which is close to the usual response rate (which ranges in the mid 40's). The original closing date of the survey was June 1st, however one additional email reminder will be sent and the survey will be kept open for approximately another week to give people slightly more time to respond. After the survey is closed, Maggie will develop a report using the results. After the report for this year is completed, the modules for next year will be compiled.

A subcontract is currently being set up through Virginia Tech so Maggie can continue to work on the project.

3. Report from NCO representatives

The last NCO meeting was May 15th. The UF updated the NCO about the UF ballot for the 2020 elections, the modules for the user satisfaction survey, and the UF manuscript for the special issue. The procedure for adding the user satisfaction modules to CONVERGE were discussed. The UF has been in touch with Lori Peek about incorporating CONVERGE into the user satisfaction survey for next year, and discussions with her will continue.

The issue of Designsafe emails not going out was also discussed, however it appears this issue was resolved.

Dan gave a large update about central scheduling renewal and how the facilities are

working. The facilities are generally working ok, however there have been some difficulties with data requests, and the current scheduling tools are difficult to use. A new scheduling tool is currently being developed with an anticipated launch date at the end of summer. The concept of virtual reality training videos for safety and use of RAPID instruments was also introduced. There should be more information regarding that in upcoming meetings.

Communications reorganised the webinar listings and developed a presentation template for SimCenter webinars. They are currently working on similar things for DesignSafe webinars.

The NCO meeting schedule is more flexible during the summer, so meetings may not happen every two weeks as they do during the academic year.

4. Report from ECO representatives

The last ECO meeting was on May 29th. Updates were given on the Summer Institute and REU programmes. The 2020 summer institute has been replaced by a NHERI Virtual Presentation for Early Career Faculty June 29th – June 30th which will be open to anyone who registers. June 29th will include presentations and NSF workshops and June 30th will be meetings. Some participants in the Virtual Presentation will have an opportunity to meet with Joy. Participants will be asked to submit a one page proposal, and the first 12 candidates who submit a proposal will get a meeting with Joy. The 2021 Summer Institute will be in Alexandria VA.

The 2020 REU programme has been replaced by an alternative virtual programme July 28th – July 29th. The programme will contain seminars and workshops primarily led by REU programme alumni. The virtual programme is available to all undergraduates who register.

ACTION ITEMS: Mohammad: Share most recent agenda for Virtual Presentation with Stephanie and she will share with all members of UF.

5. Report from Facilities Scheduling representatives

No update.

6. Report from Technology Transfer representatives

No update.

7. 2020 annual elections and officer changes

The ballot for the 2020 election has been closed and votes have been tallied. Votes with repeated IP addresses were removed from the tally, however this did not influence the outcome of the election. The top four candidates were Wei Song, Stephanie Pilkington, Shane Crawford, and Victoria Tomiczek respectively. There was previous discussion about maintaining diversity in the research specialisations of members on the UF. The specialties of the top three candidates were discussed in this capacity. Shane's specialty is remote sensing and geospatial analysis. Stephanie's specialty is community resiliency. Wei's specialty is structural dynamics. Victoria's specialty is coastal engineering. The following thoughts were shared about each candidate:

- Stephanie Pilkington – Her focus on community resilience and infrastructure networks could provide a good bridge between the traditional NHERI facilities and the newer facilities like CONVERGE. She would be a good replacement for Elaina because she is also in the social sciences.
- Shane Crawford – His less traditional background in remote sensing and emerging technologies aligns well with NSF initiatives in disruptive/emerging technology.
- Wei Song – His specialty is in structural engineering, which already has large representation on the committee.
- Victoria Tomiczek – Her specialty would bring a coastal engineering aspect to the UF committee. However it was pointed out that coastal engineering is already represented on the committee.

Based on the discussion of candidate specialties, Stephanie raised a question as to whether members of the UF support adding two, three, or four members to the

committee. There was consensus that the overall number of members should remain unchanged, which would mean adding three members to replace the current members rolling off. Each member was asked to select the top three candidates based on votes and expertise.

Stephanie – Shane, Stephanie, Wei

Max – Shane, Stephanie, Wei

Mohammad – Shane, Stephanie, Victoria

Jim – Shane, Stephanie, Wei

Liesal – Recused on recommending engineers, but highly recommended Stephanie

Nina – Shane, Stephanie, Wei

Prior to finalising the new members, it was brought up that there are a number of inactive members on the committee. Stephanie agreed to reach out to inactive members to determine if they want to continue to serve on the committee prior to finalising the number of new members and contacting the candidates to let them know they have been elected to the committee.

There were no changes in officer selection. This topic will be addressed when the new members roll onto the committee.

ACTION ITEMS: Stephanie – Reach out to inactive members to ask if they can still contribute to UF.

8. Update on manuscript submission

The manuscript was accepted for the special issue.

9. Other Items

None.

Stephanie motioned to adjourn; Jim second. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm CT.