

User Group 2009 Business Meeting
September 17, 2009 at 12:00 noon
Iran Thomas Auditorium, Spallation Neutron Source

Tony Haynes opened the meeting with an update on CNMS and UEC activities during the past 2 years (slides attached at end). He noted that there was no official UEC in CY2009 due to no election being held in 2008, but that Hai-Ping Cheng, 2008 Vice Chair, carried out the essential duties of UEC Chair in 2009 with support from *ad hoc* assemblies of 2008 UEC members as needed. The process of elections for 2010 is underway with a slate of 14 candidates confirmed before the opening of this business meeting (see slides for list of candidates).

Additional UEC nominations were subsequently accepted from the floor as follows:

Nagraj Kulkarni, ORNL: self-nominated for At-Large, seconded by Hai-Ping Cheng

Vojtech Svoboda, CFD Research Corp: self-nominated for At-Large, seconded by Mark Dadmun

Candidate statements will be collected from 16 candidates in October for the ballot and online election conducted in November-December.

Following introduction and brief statement from Hai-Ping Cheng, outgoing UEC Chair, the floor was opened for questions and discussion.

Two users verbally expressed their appreciation for their recent experiences and those of their students at CNMS. Mike Simonson, Interim Director of CNMS, replied that “getting the word out” about such experiences is vitally important to CNMS and particularly to its sponsor, DOE-BES, and is greatly appreciated. He also stressed the importance of users participating in forums such as this meeting and workshops and communicating their interests, and that CNMS management appreciates all user feedback. In particular, DOE-BES will hold its triennial program review of CNMS in early December and users will be asked by DOE-BES to participate.

Q: Should UEC be elected for more than one-year terms?

A: The incoming UEC may want to review and revise the bylaws for a different rotation to ensure better continuity.

Q: Would CNMS consider allowing user proposals that run more than 1 year?

A: There is already a mechanism in place for an extension to a second year, although it does require a progress report (in bullet format). We are expected to address the fast moving frontiers of science—after 2 years, a review is certainly required to ensure that continuing research remains at state of the art.

Q: What about increasing the frequency of proposal calls?

A: One consideration is that our cycle from announcing a proposal call to starting new projects is nearly 5 months, including 2 months for PI proposal development on front-end and 1 month for startup planning after award notification. In addition, the trend in our user data is toward more in-depth proposals and more user hours per project. So we already have 3-4 proposal calls within a typical project lifetime. If we have more frequent calls, we would need to shorten lifetime to generate turnover. We would request guidance from our sponsors and UEC to consider more than 2 calls per year.

Q: Is there any chance to extend operating hours, particularly in the Nanofab facility?

A: Hour extension depends on sponsors, needs a second shift and increase in budget. Chances are better if sponsor hears it from users, and the UEC, rather than from CNMS management.

Q: What is the status of the on-site housing facility?

A: Location has been sited and request for bids released. Current construction schedule to start in late fall and complete in 2011. Now planned for 47 guest rooms. Not plush, but convenient.

Q: What can you tell us about future directions at CNMS.

A: The new administration has obviously had a large impact. Recovery Act funding supported a capital equipment competition among the 5 DOE nanocenters. As a result of that competition, CNMS was awarded \$5.7M million in new capital equipment. The primary investments will include 2 electron microscopes, including TEM to add a new capability for soft materials that was sorely needed, small angle x ray scattering capability, 2 new computational clusters (oldest one to be retired, keeping 4 operational), and a new spectroscopy capability for the 4-probe. Lab space is nearly full so new equipment means some things will have to go. We aim to do this while preserving existing capabilities that are important to users. For example, our x-ray suite will move into the SNS building next year, freeing up space in the CNMS building while retaining full and convenient access to the instruments for CNMS users.

THE OPENING SLIDE PRESENTATION BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE

CNMS User Group 2009 Business Meeting


Agenda

- Introduction of 2009 User Executive Committee Chair, Hai-Ping Cheng
- Update from CNMS and User Executive Committee
- Plan for election of 2010 committee
- Open Discussion- Comments/Suggestions

CNMS User Group

- Purpose- provide a channel for communication between CNMS management and its users
- Membership- PIs and participants in user projects during past 3 years
 - Approximately 800 members
 - FY2009: ~350 users this year, including ~150 new users
- User Executive Committee (UEC)- elected body of users
 - advises CNMS management on issues of interest to user community (facility needs, user program operations, etc.)
 - plans annual user meeting
 - represents user community on CNMS Advisory Committee and in response to DOE requests for input
 - advocates for facility and user community

User Group section on CNMS website



Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences
A Highly Collaborative and Multidisciplinary
U.S. DOE Nanoscale Science Research Center

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CNMS Home About CNMS ▶ Capabilities ▶ Research ▶ Becoming a User ▶ Working at CNMS ▶ Publications ▶ News/Highlights Upcoming Events CNMS Employment CNMS Postdoctoral Research Nanoscience Images Training Contact Us CNMS User Group ▶ Other NSRCS Other DOE/BES User Facilities DOE Basic Energy Sciences 	<h2>THE CENTER FOR NANOPHASE MATERIALS SCIENCES USER GROUP</h2> <p>Welcome to the CNMSUG</p> <p>The formation of CNMSUG was initiated in 2005 when the CNMS management started to identify several users as the Charter Members of the Users Executive Committee (UEC). These Charter Members were responsible for preparing the charter of the CNMSUG, and coordinating the election of the first UEC. Four Charter Members were appointed in 2006 including Haiping Cheng (University of Florida), S. Michael Kilbey, II (Acting Chair; Clemson University), and Yoke Khin Yap (Michigan Technological University). Under the leadership of Michael Kilbey and Tony E. Haynes (CNMS user coordinator), a proposed Charter was prepared by the Charter Members. The purpose of this Charter was to establish the initial bylaws, structure and procedures for CNMSUG.</p> <p>The CNMSUG was officially founded on September 7, 2007 when its Charter was unanimously approved by the voting users. According to the Charter, all lead principal investigators on approved CNMS user projects and all badged CNMS users become CNMSUG members for three years from the initiation of their CNMS project. The stated purpose of the CNMSUG is:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"to provide a formal and direct channel for the exchange of information and advice between the management of the CNMS and the investigators who perform experimental and computational nanoscience-focused research at the CNMS. The CNMSUG will also serve as an advocacy group for the computational nanoscience-focused research activities at the CNMS."</p> <p>EC were immediately solicited among CNMSUG members and nominations were closed after the October 10-11, 2007. The CNMS users voted for their first UEC during an online election held on October 18, 2007 and January 7, 2008. The following candidates were elected to serve on the 2008 CNMS User Executive Committee with terms ending December 31, 2008.</p>
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User Executive Committee

- First elected committee formed in 2008
- Participated in planning 2008 User Meeting
- Organized first user newsletter
- 2009- elections not completed, so we have a Chair and Past Chair from 2008 but no "official" committee
- TODAY- restart the UEC
- Three officers + up to seven at-large members

Nominations

- Email solicitation sent to 800 members on 9/1
- Contacted 2009 nominees to reconfirm interest
- Fourteen nominations received and accepted:
(* indicates 9 officer candidates)
 - *Alamgir Karim (U. Akron)
 - *Bin Hu (U. Tennessee)
 - *David Bucknall (Georgia Tech)
 - *Gary Mankey (U. Alabama)
 - *Mark Dadmun (U. Tennessee)
 - Martyn McLachlan (Imperial College London)
 - *Milan Buncick (Aegis Technologies Inc.)
 - Roger Proksch (Asylum Research)
 - *Tony Hmelo (Vanderbilt U.)
 - *Venkatraman Gopalan (Penn State U.)
 - *Ron Jones (NIST)
 - Michael Hickner (Penn State U.)
 - Scott Retterer (CNMS staff)
 - Rosario Gerhardt (Georgia Tech)
- Nominations from the floor accepted today
- Will conduct election by electronic ballot in October

Open Discussion