

MEETING OF THE NHERI USER FORUM COMMITTEE
June 17, 2021

MINUTES

In Attendance: Stephanie S., Antonio, David, Wei, Max, Mohammad, Stephanie P., Jim, Julio, Shane

1. Approval of meeting minutes from May 12, 2021 meeting

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

2. Report from User Satisfaction Survey committee

This will be a big topic for the NIAC meeting. Members of the UF should have already read, reviewed and provided comments on the user satisfaction report from the past year. The report is currently being reviewed by the NCO, and the UF has requested comments by the end of June. The user satisfaction survey had two things going on this year – the traditional survey (for which the results are reflected in the report) and ongoing surveys via the modules attached to the facility surveys. Data from the modules is still being collected, and most facilities have said they would like to provide the data at the end of the year rather than on a rolling basis. Maggie is keeping track of the module data.

The User Satisfaction survey report from the known NHERI user base was largely the same as previous years, with the addition of the ‘four big questions’. A large majority of respondents responded favorably with regards to the impact NHERI is making. With regards to the response rates, it is difficult to quantify the actual response rates because snowball sampling was used. However, of the people that were directly approached with the survey the response rates were quite low. Based on the low response rates, the results of the survey should be used cautiously. For two years in a row, there has been a comment regarding inconsistent data formatting on DesignSafe. It is difficult to develop an action plan based on that comment because it is impossible to follow-up with the person who made the comment, however we are currently brainstorming ideas. Since this comment has been brought up several times, it was recommended that the UF bring this comment to the NCO (and possibly offer some suggestions). The first step might be determining what resources (if any) DesignSafe has to ensure data is formatted consistently - DesignSafe

should look at their resources to inform us whether anything can be done about data formatting (e.g. can they provide a best practice guide for data?). The UF can't impose solutions – simply highlight issues, inform the appropriate parties and provide suggestions.

3. Report from NCO representatives

The UF presented the preliminary results from the User Satisfaction survey report at the last NCO meeting. The NSF site visit and comments and clarifications to the budget and science plan were also discussed. NHERI will be renewed for 4.25 years!

4. Report from ECO representatives

The ECO meeting is later this afternoon. The Summer Institute seems to be going very well - there are 17 participants in person.

5. Report from Facilities Scheduling representatives

The last facility scheduling meeting was June 2nd. There was supposed to be a working demo of the new scheduling tool this month, however progress was slowed by the NSF site visit. It is expected there will be a working demo in July. The facility scheduling committee will request feedback from the UF on the new scheduling tool – more information on this to come.

A webpage has been developed with the purpose of connecting potential researchers with NHERI sites relevant to their research. This site could potentially be very useful for potential researchers and NSF. Initial UF comment on the website – important it is placed in a prominent place on the DesignSafe website so people can find it. The facility scheduling committee has requested feedback from the UF on the webpage. Link below.

ACTION ITEMS: All UF Members: Review new webpage to connect potential researchers with NHERI sites by June 30 to Wei/Stephanie/Mohammad. Link: <https://www.designsafe-ci.org/facilities/nco/contact/>

6. Report from Technology Transfer representatives

No update.

7. New Member Elections

New officer elections were held during the last meeting. As a reminder, Mohammad will

transition to chair, Stephanie P. will transition to Vice Chair, and Wei will transition to Secretary. It is important the existing officers help the new officers transition into their roles (e.g. organize a meeting or orientation). Stephanie S. had several recommendations for the roles of the UF leadership based on her experience as Secretary and Chair of the UF over the last few years: (1) the Secretary should only focus on the duties of the Secretary because it is a very time-consuming role, and (2) the Vice Chair should step into the User Satisfaction Subcommittee more actively than what has been done in the past.

There have been 3 nominations for new member elections. All current nominations are from academia. The UF is currently missing a nomination of someone in industry who knows NHERI who can step into Jim's role. The UF will ask the NCO and NIAC recommendations for candidates for this nomination. Want to maintain diversity in specialties and geography with the new members.

ACTION ITEMS: Mohammad: Send reminder to NCO about industry candidate for UF.

8. Other Items

The agenda for the UF-NIAC meeting (to be held immediately following this meeting) has changed slightly. Minutes from that meeting will be attached to these minutes.

Stephanie motioned to adjourn; Jim second. The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 pm CT.