

MEETING OF THE NHERI USER FORUM COMMITTEE
July 6, 2018

MINUTES

In Attendance: Russell, Nina, Elaina, Liesel, Jim, David Johnson (NCO), Antonio Bobet (NCO)

Regrets: Stephanie, Erik, Adda, Ramtin

1. Approval of meeting minutes from June 6, 2018 in-person meeting

Russell motioned to approve; Liesel seconded; minutes approved.

2. Overview of June 6 in-person meeting

a. Officer and member election and rollover

Russell provided an overview of this discussion of tenure and succession. His action item after the in-person meeting was to send out an email to ask for committee member's to indicate their willingness to stay on or step off, where at least 50% continuity was desired. To date: Elaina, Jim, and Liesel have agreed to stay on; Erik has asked to step down.

Action Item: Russell will email Ramtin, Nina, Adda, and Stephanie to seek their preference in continuing or stepping down from the UF for the next year.

b. NHERI article in Civil Engineering Magazine

Elaina provided a brief overview on the discussion with NIAC at the in-person meeting for increasing exposure of NHERI. Antonio had volunteered to contact the Civil Engineering editor, and is still working on that effort. Russell noted this would be a good opportunity for some of the junior faculty on the committee to lead a publication. Elaina volunteered to act as one of the primary authors.

Action Item: Antonio will contact the Civil Engineering magazine editor to seek information on how the UF can publish a NHERI article.

c. Travel reimbursement

This served as a reminder to those who traveled.

3. Overview of UF presentation at 11NCEE

Russell provided a positive overview of the 11NCEE presentation. Elaina discussed that room for improvement lands in being able to reach a broader audience for future conference presentations. Russell suggested that when we learn of NHERI keynotes, we contact the speaker and provide 1 to 3 slides from the UF for them to share in the presentation, since these keynote presentations usually have a large audience and portion of the conference attendees.

Jim agreed with Russell's idea, and shared that Julio provided a larger special/keynote presentation at the 11NCEE, where the audience was much larger.

Antonio suggested to bring this issue up to the Council during the next NCO meeting, so that they will know and be able to advocate that a few slides from the UF be included in future NHERI presentation. Nina will attend the next NCO meeting, and will bring this up.

Antonio also suggested to post the slides to the UF webpage; Elaina will contact Chris to get them posted.

Action Item: Nina will bring up including UF slides in NHERI keynote presentations at conferences at the upcoming NCO call.

Action Item: Elaina will contact Chris to get the 11NCEE presentation posted to the UF webpage.

4. Report from User Satisfaction Survey committee

Liesel led this discussion. The survey report has been drafted by Liesel and Kevin, and shared last week. Thus far, Russell and Elaina have provided feedback; Liesel and Kevin are working to incorporate it. Liesel indicated that ideally the survey would have more detail so that subgroups of users based on their experiences could be distinguished in the results. That wasn't possible with this year's survey, but leaves room for improvement for next year. Thus survey results are reported mostly descriptively. Liesel discussed the low response rate for the follow up interviews, and suggested that we may try to contact facility staff members and/or board members in the future to perform more of a 360-review for facilities in the future if we are unable to rely on users to provide feedback.

Antonio shared his disappointment with

Russell asked if there was any policy or other restrictions that would prevent Liesel from being able to publish the survey analysis in a journal article to benefit her professionally. Antonio indicated he didn't see why there would be a problem, since the UF is going to post the data on their webpage anyways. However, out of courtesy, Antonio suggests to contact Joy before doing that. Liesel suggested including a subset of the results in the Civil Engineering magazine article might be better than a peer-reviewed journal, since the response rate was so low for the quantitative and qualitative data and this might be too severe a limitation for a journal.

5. Report from NCO representatives

- a. "virtual" site visit review for the NHERI NCO award will be held on two (consecutive) days of the following three days: September 5, 6, and 7, 2018**

Antonio explained the background on this meeting with the UF, and how it differs and resembles the one the UF participated in last year. There will be a two-hour session on each day, where the one hour presentation will be given at the beginning of the session on the first day. The NCO is currently working on their report to the NSF, and waiting to hear back from the NSF on additional information on what needs to be shared before and presented during that meeting. Antonio doesn't expect any presentation from the UF would be significant since the total presentation time is only one hour. Likely participation from at least one UF representative will be needed.

6. Report from ECO representatives

Elaina reported that no ECO meeting had been held since the last UF meeting. The Summer Institute, one of the major ECO efforts, was held during the in-person meeting in San Antonio and went very successfully, and the REU program is on-going and also going well.

Antonio said the feedback they have received from the Summer Institute has been very positive, from participants and the NSF.

Elaina also reminded everyone that the ECO hosts research to practice webinars, so anyone interested or with a recommendation, please share with Elaina or Karina.

7. Report from Facilities Scheduling representatives

Stephanie nor Ramtin were able to join the meeting. Stephanie emailed beforehand and indicated there was no update.

8. Report from Technology Transfer representatives

Jim provided an update. The committee reviewed a few previous NSF projects to determine what could be translated into practice that hadn't already. Feedback has been sent into the committee lead, and the effort is ongoing.

9. Other items to discuss

There were no other items to discuss.

Antonio moved to adjourn. Russell adjourned the meeting at 11:40am (CT).