

MEETING OF THE NHERI USER FORUM COMMITTEE
May, 15 2025

MINUTES

Attendees

- Mohammad Khosravi (Chair)
- Antonio Bobet
- Stephanie Paal
- Stephanie Pilkington
- Richard Campos
- Maggie Corwin
- Yazen

Agenda Items and Discussions

1. Meeting Logistics and Attendance

- The meeting was recorded and transcribed via Microsoft Teams.
- Due to a number of absences, attendance was limited; however, the meeting proceeded with essential updates.
- Mohammad confirmed he would follow up with Robin regarding participant confirmations for upcoming events.
- Mohammad noted he would not attend the Summer Institute in person due to a conflict with an MDT project deadline but will join virtually.

2. NSF/NCO Program Updates

- **NSF Funding Uncertainty:** Ongoing reorganization at NSF is affecting award processing and program clarity.
 - Antonio shared that existing programs are being reshuffled, with delays in new grant announcements.
 - Concerns were raised about a rumored 15% cap on indirect costs (IDC) starting in early May.
 - Stephanie Paal reported this change was communicated shortly after proposal revisions were submitted.
 - Mohammad noted that proposals are still being reviewed, but awards and funding announcements have slowed considerably.
 - Antonio highlighted concerns about grant sustainability post-September and the implications of political uncertainties.

3. Graduate Student Council (GSC) Update – *Richard Campos*

- GSC hosted a mini-conference on May 16 featuring a data challenge, student research presentations, and abstract reviews.
- Final meeting of the term will be a social event.
- Richard noted past discussions on immigration-related issues affecting PhD students; while no specific cases were shared for confidentiality, the issue remains a concern.

4. ECO Committee Update – *Stephanie Paal*

- RU Summer Program preparations are complete; students have been evaluated and assigned to facilities.
- Mohammad and Richard will not attend the Summer Institute in person; Stephanie and Antonio will be attending.
- Stephanie will share ECO meeting minutes separately.

5. Survey Committee Update – *Maggie Corwin*

- The 2024 survey report is complete. The team is preparing to launch the next survey in time for the Summer Institute.
- Maggie will upload the survey instrument for testing and share promotional materials with Stephanie and Richard.
- A proposal was made to write a paper based on lessons learned from the survey data. Interested members (Stephanie Pilkington, Stephanie Paal, and Mohammad) agreed to support the effort.
 - Drafting will begin with the methodology and background content while awaiting new survey data in late summer.

6. Technology and Outreach Committees – *Yazen*

- **Technology Transfer Committee (TTC):** Currently recruiting two new members, ideally from industry.
- **Outreach Subcommittee:** Meeting scheduled for next week to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season.
 - Yazen noted recent concerns in FEMA leadership about readiness.
 - The committee plans to increase public-facing outreach and information dissemination.