

**MEETING OF THE NHERI USER FORUM COMMITTEE**  
**July 21, 2023**

**MINUTES**

Attending: Maggie, Mohammad, Esteban, Antonio, Claudia, Kameshwar, Stephanie Paal, Stephanie Pilkington, Shane, Idil, Sara

1. Approval of meeting minutes from June 23, 2023.

No objections. Approved.

2. Report from Graduate Students Council

Esteban needs the specific language for the new question to grad students that we need to add to the survey. The GSC is working on an annual report. This will be the first time.

Mohammad: The questions should be related to on what extend they used the facility. We ask the facilities to add the questions to their survey. If GSC is doing any surveys, we can ask our questions in that survey.

Esteban: There is a survey that is a requirement to become a member. There is another one on NHERI GSC experience. It may not fit in that survey because it is specific to GSC.

Maggie: We know how many survey participants are students. We can incorporate this question to the survey next year.

Mohammad: We may be able to get more from the students about the centers because they usually interact with the centers more than the PIs.

3. Report from User Satisfaction Survey committee

Maggie: Data collection is ongoing for the survey. Solicitations are staggered. Summer Institute and social media push led to 52 responses. The invitation is extended to grad students through Taylor (vice president of GSC). A final invitation will be sent to the PIs. Last year we had 52 responses. We are hoping to get more this year. A closing date was not advertised, but end of August is a good target.

4. Report from NCO representatives

The major discussion was on the survey.

Antonio: One reviewer had a question on how we could ensure continuity. If someone steps out or retires what will happen to the grant etc. What is the succession plan? There was some discussion on that. In such cases the university decides who continues the

grant.

5. Report from ECO representatives

Stephanie Paal: ECO is quiet in the summer because of Summer Institute and REI program. Summer Institute went well. REU is up and running.

Sara will also join the ECO.

6. Report from Facilities Scheduling representatives

Kameshwar: the representatives met yesterday. PIs should discuss with the program managers/officers while writing a proposal if they plan to use NHERI facilities.

NSF is interested in information on who (which states) is getting benefited by the experimental results obtained from a grant.

Failed specimens during experiments can be used in outreach activities.

Need volunteers to promote NHERI facilities in different conferences. For example, AGU can provide 1 week and 1 single day pass to help at the NHERI booth. No information on travel funds yet. The deadline to let the representatives know if they want to volunteer is December.

Joy Pauschke suggested that people ask NSF what if NHERI is not renewed in 2025 and how can I make my budget with and without the use of NHERI facilities.

7. Report from Technology Transfer representatives

Shane: Committee chair emailed last week to update the representatives on a searchable database on DesignSafe. The next step is to present the capabilities of the database to different organizations that can benefit from the database. A list of names will be prepared by the end of July.

8. Report from Communication and Outreach Subcommittee

Claudia is joining Lehigh, so she cannot keep serving in UF once her appointment starts.

Stephanie Pilkington: NSF did a site visit and they were pleased by the statistics (viewers, engagement numbers, etc) coming from the subcommittee. The subcommittee will reach out to facilities and ask them to join the subcommittee. They plan to promote each of the facilities.

REU media will be posted in September.

There is a new platform alternative to Twitter, Threads. The subcommittee is considering joining Threads too. It doesn't allow clicking on the hashtag, that's the main drawback

currently.

Please use the hashtag #NHERISpotlight if you post anything related to NHERI.

Mobile shakers that went to Hawaii will be up soon too.

Publications can be highlighted too in addition to the data. DesignSafe does it in their annual report. The subcommittee is trying to do that too, but it is difficult to track.

Sara: We need to show NHERI capabilities to non-engineers too. For example social scientists can benefit from the facilities too.

Esteban: GSC may be a good starting point for that. There are a lot of students from social sciences.

#### 9. Other discussions

Antonio will check with Julio about the contact person for Summer Institute reimbursement.

Some people are losing access to DesignSafe. There seems to be a new requirement that people from certain countries (Iran and maybe others) need to submit their immigration information. They don't have access to data now.

Adjourned at 4:15 PM Eastern.