

ANBUG Executive Committee Meeting on 24th March 2020

Meeting held: by Zoom teleconference

Present: Tracy Rushmer (TR, President), Andrew Clulow (AJC, Secretary), Tilo Soehnel (TS, Ordinary Member, NZ), Ian Gentle (IRG, Immediate Past President), David Cortie (DC, website/comms), Katy Wood (KW, Immediate Past Secretary) & Anna Paradowska (AP, Treasurer).



Apologies: Yun Liu (YL, Vice President)

Agenda

1. *Approval of minutes from the last meeting.*

2. *President's report – TR*

3. *Matters arising from the last meeting:*

- a) AJC to check with DC what the new sign up link is and the new email is for the ANBUG members prior to sending out the invitation to ANBUG members to rejoin.
- b) AJC to resend the equity and diversity policy for final approval.
- c) AJC to draft email after consultation with DC and IRG as to the details for sign up and new email list to encourage them to spread the word.
- d) TR to chase Kellie Cubbin with regards to getting the photos from the AUM.
- e) TR to ask Kellie Cubbin if there is a template for the ANBUG awards certificates for sending of the awards to this year's recipients.
- f) AP to speak to the bank with regards to ANBUG getting an ABN.
- g) AJC will update the related schools/conferences with any meetings sent to him by the committee.
- h) TR to complete the AUM2019 report with suggestions for improvements and submit to Miles Apperley and the ANBUG committee.

4. *AANSS 2020.*

5. *Implications of COVID-19 including potential further delays of the OPAL long shutdown*

6. *Any other business*

Meeting Opened: 13:05

Items Discussed

1. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

2. President's report

TR and Kelly are still finalising the AUM2019 report. TR noted that we're seeing shutdown of critical infrastructure globally. KW confirmed that the shutdown of the OPAL reactor for maintenance and upgrade has been postponed until next year. IRG raised concerns about the PAC meeting in May, AP suggested that the meeting will be held in a virtual manner and IRG said that the AINSE meeting will likely also be virtual. TR offered to help IRG with the PAC meeting preparations. The scientific advisory board meeting has been

postponed to September/October 2020 at the earliest and TR will prepare a report for that meeting when it is rescheduled.

TR and DC have been in discussion with Brendan Kennedy (U.Syd) about DC taking on an advertising/PR within AONSA. DC has provisionally accepted a position to handle the website and communications aspects on the proviso that he not undertake regular international travel given his parental commitments.

3. Matters arising from last meeting

- a) DC gave AJC a tutorial on using the new ANBUG mailing system in January at Lucas Heights. DC developing a “how to” guide for this system as it is non-trivial to operate.
- b) AJC resent the current version of the code of conduct and diversity policy for committee approval. TR moved that they be approved and the committee did so.
- c) After DC had checked that users currently signed up to the new membership system were receiving emails AJC sent out an email requesting people transfer over. Currently the new mailing system has 85 members. AJC to send the second email within the next fortnight.
- d) TR still trying to contact Kelly Cubbin regarding the photos from the AUM.
- e) AJC received certificate template and updated them for 2019. TR had the certificates printed, signed and dispatched to award winners.
- f) AP has contacted the bank by email regarding this but is yet to hear back from them. AP to contact the bank again.
- g) AJC periodically updates the conferences/schools list with relevant meetings.
- h) TR is still to contact Kelly with regards to completing this report.

4. AANSS 2020

It is likely that some or all of the meeting will have to be online/remote, which will make it more likely that interstate/NZ users would attend the event. TR organising an online meeting mid year and may be able to assist with online logistics.

The executive committee to submit suggestions for users to organise the AANSS meeting over the next week.

DC noted that a lot of postponed conferences this year are being rescheduled for November and the AANSS could be a satellite conference of one of these rescheduled meetings. AP suggested that we could also try to schedule the meeting in line with an OPAL shutdown. AJC requested that the meeting not be scheduled at the same time as the synchrotron user meeting as he would like to attend both given his presence on both ANBUG and UAC.

5. Implications of COVID-19 including potential further delays of the OPAL long shutdown

AP and KW informed the committee that there were a number of reasons for the further delay of the long shutdown including the fact that there is only a small team containing international scientists performing the maintenance and guide upgrades. If one of these people were to become sick, this would shut down the project and the international team members currently can't travel to Australia. DC raised the point that there is an opportunity cost to further delays to the shutdown with dubious access to beamtime for students and ECRs on short term fellowships. TR suggested contact Jamie Schulz to discuss mitigation of the impacts of postponement of the long shutdown to next year and forward-planning to ensure that further delays were not required beyond 2021. IRG suggested that the best time to discuss this might be at the ACNS Advisory Committee meeting later in the year as the impacts of COVID-19 become more apparent. KW noted that there are some beamlines where $\geq 50\%$ of the beamtime is awarded to overseas users. It was generally agreed

that ANBUG should be advocating that rescheduled beamtime should be awarded to Australian/NZ users in preference to those from overseas. DC also raised the issue of Aus/NZ users not being awarded beamtime in preference to larger overseas groups and the particular difficulties for new users breaking in to the field within Aus/NZ.

Issues were raised about the lack of clarity regarding proposals that are eligible for director's discretionary beamtime and the mechanism for application. There was general agreement that the requirements for directors discretionary beamtime to be considered should be made clear and communicated to the user community, preferably by Jamie Schulz as he is in the position to review/grant the beamtime. AJC noted that the ILL website had clear guidelines on director's discretionary time but the ANSTO website did not.

TS asked about the potential for rescheduling experiments towards the end of the year that are currently cancelled. AP said that there was no formal statement as yet given the evolving COVID-19 situation. KW reiterated that cancelled experiments must be forwarded to the user's office by 20th April 2020 for reconsideration in 2020 round 2.

AP confirmed that there will be a new newsletter coming out from ACNS with positive neutron news for the community in the near future.

6. Any Other Business

None tabled.

Meeting Closed: 14:27