

MEETING OF THE NHERI USER FORUM COMMITTEE
September 16, 2022, 2pm Central

MINUTES (by Wei Song)

In Attendance: Mohammad, Stephanie Paal, Wei, Antonio, Liesel, David, Claudia, Maggie, Yazen

1. Approval of meeting minutes from the August 9, 2022 meeting

Mohammad made a motion to approve the minutes: Wei seconds; no objections.

2. Travel Reimbursement for SI Trip

Wei: Several of us have received DocuSign online and completed it last month, but have not heard anything since then.

Stephanie Paal: I have not received the reimbursement either but suggest to recontact them to remind them for the reimbursement.

Yazen: I have received my reimbursement last Friday.

Mohammad: I just submitted mine three days ago.

3. Report from User Satisfaction Survey committee

Maggie: I have an update on the user satisfaction survey. We set the end date as the end of this month and make one further request for responses. Now, we have 44 completed responses, which is in line with what we used to have in the past. If we could get one more shout out through social media and slack channels, that would be great.

Mohammad: Suggest to send email message to Stephanie and Marti to do another round of shoutout on social media. Could we also send email messages to the council and ask the site PIs to send email to the users?

Antonio: That is not going to hurt and suggest to send email message to Julio first and ask him.

Mohammad: In presenting the survey results to the council, Antonio gave a comment on if the 200+ respondents to the big5 questions are active users for designsafe. Based on the total of 6000+ messages sent out, the 200 responses are still a small portion. There was a discussion on whether users are actively using designsafe tools. A question is suggested to

ask the users on how many have downloaded data or used their tools from designsafe in the past year, and see the correlation between the active users and the survey respondents.

Antonio: That information should be available at designsafe and you can reach out to designsafe for these data.

Maggie: I have to follow up and they (designsafe) may have already provided that data when providing the results on big4 modules. But I will have to confirm that by reaching out to designsafe, which I am very comfortable to do. We have not been able to calculate the response rate for the survey for a few years because of the methods of recruitments we have done before. When I came on board with the survey effort, I recall the response rate was very low, around 1% (confirmed with Lisel). Even if it was low, we have tried a quite diverse spectrum of methods to encourage response. And the response rate was around 1-2%. Therefore, I am not overly concerned with the current response rate, which has already been higher than before.

Mohammad: An interesting observation: In 2020 and 2021, we have had respectively 57 and 66 participants, and so far we have 44. We have tried one small change: we would ask the sites to send out the surveys in the past and this year we decide not to do that but rather using social media by ourselves. Also, when look at the number of users of sites in 2021, we have had less number of users due to COVID—that may be related to why we are having a lower number of responses.

4. Report from NCO representatives

Mohammad: I have already talked about one item on the survey. Another item discussed at the council is the NHERI summit. We will put up a poster in the summit (maybe together with ECO) and if you are attending the summit too, you are welcome to stop by.

Antonio: Another item mentioned in the meeting is that, in two years, an external entity has been invited to evaluate NHERI and recommend the future directions after this round of NHERI awards run out.

5. Report from ECO representatives

Stephanie Paal: We met two weeks ago. We have discussed REU program in details with pros and cons in this year. Some the REU students move faster than others and we

discussed how to accommodate that. We also have discussed the semester start/end dates at different universities to make our future plans.

Mohammad: In the NCO meeting, we were talking about the surveys collected from REU students. There are comments made by the students about not having mentors during the REU. There will be further meetings held to discuss this issue and if the meeting scheduled, I will pass on that information for Stephanie to attend.

6. Report from Facilities Scheduling representatives

Claudia: I met Dan last Wednesday. The first part of discussion is about what Antonio mentioned in the NCO meeting; the second part is about Dan's visit to Oregon this week and set up the booth for the AGU conference in December. If someone is interested in helping with him manning the booth, then NHERI can cover the registration for that person. Dan will confirm that with the NCO and let me know in our next meeting.

Mohammad: A question for Antonio—would it be possible to send UF representatives to these conferences with NCO and promote the outreach of NHERI.

Antonio: I do not know of that this year because we have not discussed. We had booth setup for AGU last year, and that has been the trip to go in the past. I do not think there is any problem for UF members to participate in one of these trips.

David: It would be nice to know the acceptance of the booth at AGU.

Antonio: Mohammad, it is always appropriate for UF to ask this question at the NCO. You can bring it up in the NCO meeting next time.

7. Report from Technology Transfer representatives

Yazen: We have not had any meeting. The only update is the same as last time—there was

a draft prepared by TTC to be circulated in UF.

8. Updates on Communication and Outreach subcommittee

Claudia: We have discussed several items: the distribution of the social media accounts, and our hashtag on twitter, plan to make a publication every Friday called “NHERI Spotlight”. One account publishes something and the other accounts will retweet it. Marti is going to create a new NHERI account on Instagram with more easy-to-understand information (e.g., stories and posts) to reach more people.

Mohammad: do you think we can have a brief summary on Instagram for every UF meeting we have.

Claudia: I think it is possible for anything that is NHERI related. We plan to run stories every day and spotlight every week.

Mohammad: Please think about the contents and stories that we can produce as UF.

9. Discussion on new member election

Mohammad: I have discussed with Marti and I will have a meeting with Wei to further discuss the details early next week. The plan is to send email message requesting nominations. Currently, we are also considering of adding one member with background in wildfire. Stephanie Paal has talked to one graduate student and please to reach out to her again. We may have two or three new members, depending on the members who will be stepping down.

Lisel: I am considering to roll off as I have been with the UF for 6 years and I think it is helpful to have a new member who can bring in fresh perspective in social science. But I can stay working with Maggie to support the user satisfaction survey.

Mohammad: Thanks Lisel for these years of service, especially to initiate the effort. Now we have social science, community and outreach, coastal engineering, and wildfire to cover with the new members. Depending on checking with Shane, we may have 5 members to

add. I will have a meeting with Wei next week and discuss the plan to go forward. We may need to recruit more than two members.

10. Other items (new ideas to implement)

Mohammad: We have had this discussion before. One idea is hosting office hours with site representatives; another idea is to host Happy Hours with previous users and talk about their experiences in an informal but interactive way. Have you thought about these ideas?

Wei: I have thought about the first idea, and think that can attract more attention from someone who would like to use the experimental sites in the future. In the consideration of more details, it is probably more helpful for you to go to NCO and see if sites are willing to be involved on this idea.

Mohammad: For the first one, I know the sites have their own workshops from time to time, for both in-person and virtual. Maybe we can reach out to the sites and ask them to give us 20mins or one presentation for UF and moderate that session remotely.

Wei: I like that idea. I know some of us also attend these workshops organized by the sites. Maybe one of us, when attending these workshops, can work with the site and moderate such sessions.

Mohammad: Yes, I think that would be easier, especially the sites also want to attract more users.

Claudia: I think that is a great idea. But a concern I have is that, based on the response rate of the surveys and social media, I think we may need to chase users to attend these events. I have the opportunity to join the Slack channels at designsafe and noticed that there are lots of users on that channel. My idea is to create a Slack channel for UF in there.

Mohammad: We can talk to Stephanie about this idea and see. I think designsafe is in charge of that slack channel (designsafe-ci.slack.com) but we can ask if we can create a slack channel and broadcast information via Stephanie's outreach committee. I think we need more discussion on this. The second idea is something we can do once or twice a year. We can send email messages to the previous UF members and start the communication to find a time works for everyone. We will bring these two to the beginning of next meeting to discuss.

Yazen: For the summit on Oct. 6-7, because we will be in the DC area, and do you think it is possible for us to go to Deep Foundations Institute (DFI) and talk about possible NHERI outreach to professional societies. If so, I can start connect with DFI and set up the meetings.

Mohammad: I am not sure if I can be in DC on Wed. I am also not sure about Wei and Antonio. But you can represent UF and set up the discussion.

Antonio: Yazen, if you want the UF to be there then you should join the meeting without me; if you want the NCO to be there, then you will need to run this idea to NCO and see if Julio and other NCO members are interested in attending. Different groups of members may have different interests.

Mohammad: I agree—if you want NCO to be involved, then I suggest you ask Julio first. I recall our last discussion was to introduce NHERI. Therefore, I think it is best to go through NCO and let Julio and Antonio to be there. Yazen can draft email message to Julio and copy Antonio, me, and Wei.

Yazen: OK. I will draft that email and let me know what you think.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 pm CT.