

MEETING OF THE NHERI USER FORUM COMMITTEE
April 10, 2019

MINUTES

In Attendance: Elaina, Antonio, Max, Mohammad, Nina, Stephanie, Liesel

1. Approval of meeting minutes from March 11, 2019 meeting

Elaina made a motion to approve the minutes; Nina second; no objections.

2. Report from User Satisfaction Survey committee

Liesel emailed an update prepared for the NCO to Elaina and Nina on April 5 (and to Stephanie on April 8). The document is attached to these minutes. Liesel summarizes the report, which includes 8 status updates and a comparative analysis of three existing surveys from EFs (SimCenter Programming BootCamp, UC San Diego, and Sim Center Computational Modeling and Simulation Center). In general, the EF surveys are substantially different from our User Satisfaction Survey. The UC San Diego survey is most similar to our survey in terms of content. EF survey components are listed in the attached report. Liesel mentions using the summer to create a cross-cutting survey or survey modules using the EFs existing surveys, discussing with Facilities Managers how they are using the data, and if it is useful to them as it stands. If the surveys are useful, it would be more appropriate for us to conduct the user satisfaction annually. Or, the UF could develop survey modules for the EFs to use so we obtain data from users of the facilities. Nina and Antonio suggest providing this document to the NCO; Liesel agrees and suggests also sending to Joy Pauschke. Antonio adds that we could add questions to the EF surveys since they will already conduct the surveys, and the UF could develop questions of interest to us pertaining to overall user satisfaction. Liesel agrees four or five questions on overall satisfaction across all facilities on a regular basis might be considered.

3. Report from NCO representatives

Stephanie reports two main items: survey incentives and Summer Institute. First,

incentives for users who complete the User Satisfaction Survey (similar to the incentives provided by Design-Safe for completing their survey) may be something the NCO could support if the UF thinks it is necessary to increase response rates. An approval request is required if we choose to incentivize users completing the User Satisfaction Survey. Second, the NCO needs a budget from the UF of travel costs for members planning to attend the in-person meeting. Stephanie will provide Karina a head count of any UF members attending the Summer Institute as participants. These items are discussed in more detail in item 7. Stephanie reports a room has been reserved for the full day on June 7, and the NIAC plans to meet with us that day. Elaina asks for a report on the Science Plan workshop, and Antonio states a report will be prepared in the next 30 days after the workshop but overall feedback is very positive. Summer Institute – attach SI schedule.

Action Item (Stephanie): Email a budget form to UF members for the Summer Institute.

4. Report from ECO representatives

Mohammad reports the ECO did not meet the past month, but all REU spots are now filled; however, the Summer Institute has only 17 applicants. About 11 or 12 are early-career faculty, 3 are PhD students, and 3 are post-docs. Mohammad states that the ECO will rank the applicants by April 15 and send offers the next week.

Action Item (Everyone): Please invite early career faculty or post-docs to attend Summer Institute this week (reviews will be conducted April 15).

5. Report from Facilities Scheduling representatives

Stephanie reports an in-person meeting was tentatively scheduled last week, but neither she or Max could attend. A teleconference meeting is expected to be scheduled soon. Otherwise, no report.

6. Report from Technology Transfer representatives

No report (Ramtin and Jim not on call). However, Jim emailed after the meeting to state he and Ramtin were on the Technology Transfer call occurring the same day as our UF

meeting (April 10), and that new assignments to TTC members will be made to review new projects that could have research results with the potential of immediate impact to codes, standards, and/or engineering practice.

7. Summer Institute In-person Meeting

Antonio mentions UF members are welcome to attend the Summer Institute as participants, and the UF needs to provide the NCO with the total travel cost estimate. Elaina clarifies the UF plans to meet on June 7 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm ending with our meeting with the NIAC. Elaina recommends following a similar agenda to our monthly calls and scheduling a large amount of time for the UF to discuss the User Forum Survey. She also suggests time to be scheduled to meet with EFs, either in person or teleconference, to clarify how they are using their survey data and if/how the UF can add to those surveys to obtain overall user satisfaction data.

Action Item (Everyone): Provide Stephanie with a travel cost estimate to the Summer Institute, indicate which days you will be attending, and if you are interested in attending as a Summer Institute participant.

Action Item (Stephanie): Draft an agenda for the UF in-person meeting.

8. Other Items

No other items were brought up to discussion. Elaina motioned to adjourn; Nina second. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am CT.

Attachments: Report from Liesel regarding user satisfaction survey; Summer Institute tentative agenda



MEMORANDUM

Date: April 5, 2019

To: NHERI User Forum Committee

From: Liesel Ritchie, User Forum Evaluation Lead

Subject: Update on NHERI User Forum Evaluation Work

The purpose of this memo is to update the UF Committee regarding the status of the evaluation process.

1. I have engaged one of my graduate students, Maggie Chamberlain, to work on the evaluation with me this year. (Kevin Johnson, the previous student, is graduating.)
2. In preparation for conducting this year's survey, we have received contact information for facilities users from the following:
 - University of Texas at Austin
 - Oregon State
 - Lehigh University
 - Florida International

We have followed up with Dan Zehner to ask for his support in obtaining contact information for University of Florida and UC San Diego.

3. To date, there are roughly 100 names on the facilities user list. This includes some duplicates, which we will remove from the database.
4. We are on track to conduct the Facilities User Satisfaction Survey beginning the week of April 22nd. We will send the link and the contact database to Antonio (or Julio?) so that he can send out the survey link.
5. We are on track to conduct the general User Satisfaction Survey approximately two weeks later – the week of May 6th. We realize that this is a busy time for academics, but last year the timing (earlier in the semester) seemed not to make a difference in response rates from 2017. We will send link to Antonio (or Julio?) so that he can send it out.

6. We have received a total of three survey examples from facilities—two from Sim Centers (Programming BootCamp Survey and Computational Modeling and Simulation Center) and UC San Diego. Our initial analysis indicates that there are very few similarities between these survey instruments and our User Satisfaction Survey. The closest in terms of content is the UC San Diego Survey. See the end of this document for our content analysis of the existing questionnaires.
7. This summer, we should (as the NHERI UF) decide whether we want to recommend developing a survey that each of the facilities can use. I have mixed feelings about this; we should also discuss with the facilities people how they are using the current data they are collecting.
8. We are looking forward to discussing this with the UF group, as well as the NCO when appropriate.

Comparative Analysis of Existing Surveys

Survey 1: NHERI Sim Center Programming BootCamp Survey

- Primarily oriented toward basic descriptive information about users.
 - Educational status
 - Field of Interest
 - Gender
 - Racial/Ethnic ID
 - Software use
- Includes no items on satisfaction or utilization.
- Would have to be re-vamped considerably to address user satisfaction and utility of services/facility.

Survey 2: NHERI @ UC San Diego User Satisfaction Survey (this one is easily the best & my favorite)

- The most comprehensive of the three facility specific surveys.
- Broken up into three sections
 - Overall Experience & Feedback
 - Likert scale, facility specific questions.
 - Open ended questions for feedback.
 - Site Operations/
 - Likert scale, facility specific questions.
- May not need to be adaptable much, if at all.
- Doesn't capture user information like the other two.

Survey 3: Sim Center Computational Modeling and Simulation Center

- Primarily oriented toward basic descriptive information about users
 - Identifiers (Email/Name/Title/Organization or Institution Affiliation & Type)
 - Position (or rather, educational attainment and then engineer??)

- Areas of interest
 - Hazard Classes
 - “Additional Areas of Interest”: Seem to not really have anything in common? Options are: Fire. Blast. Floods. Bridges. Other. Storm Surge. Multihazard.
 - Areas of Interest: primarily geared toward engineering (civil and other).
- Asks about engagement
 - Basic use of SimCenter resources.
- Does not cover satisfaction.

Initial thoughts:

- We *could* probably add a small module to the existing surveys 1 & 3 about user satisfaction if we wanted to, but we might be inclined to suggest otherwise. We’re not sure how much of the data they collected in their surveys we can really use to address how satisfied people are with these facilities. However, we might be able to see what resources specifically are being used and, in the case of survey 3, what they’re being used for.

Overlap w/ NHERI 2018 User Satisfaction Survey Report (Ours)

Some informed consent component, including the purpose of the survey and how long the participant can expect to spend on the survey.

29 possible questions, combination of multiple selection & open ended questions that cover:

Intended utilization of NHERI Facilities and Resources (4 Questions)

NHERI Facilities (3 Questions)

Staff/Scheduling/Equipment (5 Questions)

Support & Resources (4 Questions)

Data & Data Management (9 Questions)

Online Resources & Tools (4 Questions)

Participants have room to respond to open-ended questions throughout the survey.

Survey 1: NHERI Sim Center Programming BootCamp Survey

Not anonymous.

7 total questions that largely address general demographics.

One question gets at addressing intentions for utilizing the SimCenter (Q 6: SimCenter Engagement: I want to...).

No room for open ended responses.

In sum: there is very little overlap between our survey and the NHERI Sim Center Survey. The question regarding engagement may address what we cover in the first section of our survey, but in no way can serve as a replacement of it.

Survey 2: NHERI @ UC San Diego User Satisfaction Survey

Anonymous.

Composed of open ended and multiple choice questions that are divided into three sections that cover:

Site Operations (22 Questions)

- Significant Overlap with the Data & Data management, Staff/Scheduling/Equipment, and NHERI facilities questions on our survey.
- Does not include meta data questions.

Overall Experience & Feedback (11 Questions)

Facility specific questions, both lickert style multiple choice and open ended questions.

- Considerable overlap with our NHERI facilities and Support & Resources questions.

IT Services (10 Questions)

Questions related to software/hardware/internet and data.

- Considerable overlap with our Data & Data Management, Online Resources and tools, and Support & Resources Section.
- Missing questions about meta data and accessing existing data.

In sum: There is lots of overlap between our survey and the UC San Diego survey(s). We could easily provide a short module to add on to their existing survey to capture items that they may have missed (specifically regarding meta data, accessing existing data, and utilization).

Survey 3: Sim Center Computational Modeling and Simulation Center

Anonymous.

Constructed of 5 multiple choice style questions concerned largely with collecting demographic data of NHERI SimCenter Programing BootCamp users.

One question concerns utilization of specific software, but does not ask about quality/accessibility of the software.

In sum: there is no overlap between our survey and the NHERI Sim Center Computational Modelling Survey.

Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure



Summer Institute
June 5-7, 2019

NHERI Summer Institute Day 1
Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Time	Description	Location
8:00-8:30am	Breakfast	Riverwalk Room
8:00-8:30am	Registration ✓ Please sign in daily.	UTSA Conference Center Lobby
8:30-9:00am	Welcome <i>Presenter: JoAnn Browning, Dean University of Texas at San Antonio, College of Engineering</i>	La Villita Room
9:00-9:45am	NHERI Overview <i>Participants will learn about the NHERI network, receive an overview of the Summer Institute objectives, and share their goals for the event.</i>	La Villita Room
9:45-10:15am	Coffee and Networking	Riverwalk Room
10:15am-12:00pm	NHERI Science Plan Discussion <i>Attendees will participate in an introduction, followed by a discussion of the NHERI Science Plan that addresses pressing research needs for the natural hazards community.</i>	La Villita Room
12:00-1:00pm	Welcome Luncheon	Riverwalk Room
1:00-2:30pm	Grant Writing Workshop – Research 101 <i>Presenter: Joy M. Pauschke, Ph.D., P.E.</i> <i>Joy Pauschke is a Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the Engineering for Civil Infrastructure (ECI) program and the Natural Hazards Engineering Research Infrastructure (NHERI) large facility in the Division of Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation in the Directorate for Engineering. She has been a Program Director at NSF since 1994, with a range of oversight responsibilities, including: Engineering (and Earthquake Engineering) Research Centers; Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers; manufacturing education and training awards; construction and operations of the George E. Brown, Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES); and a research program utilizing NEES. At NSF, she has won the Distinguished Service Award, Meritorious Service Award, Superior Accomplishment Award, Program Director/Project Management Director's Award for Excellence, and awards for Collaborative Integration teamwork.</i>	La Villita Room
2:30-3:00pm	Coffee and Networking	Riverwalk Room
3-4:30pm	CAREER Award Workshop (tentative)	La Villita
4:30-5:00pm	Reflections and Day 1 Evaluations	La Villita Room

5:00pm

San Antonio Excursion
Architectural Tour

NHERI Summer Institute Day 2
Thursday, June 6, 2019

Time	Description	Location
7:30-8:00am	Breakfast	Riverwalk Room
7:45-8:00am	Registration ✓ <i>Please sign in daily.</i>	UTSA Conference Center Lobby
8:00-10:00am	NHERI EF & Research Presentations 8:00-8:20am Florida International University Presenter: 8:25-8:45am University of Washington Presenter: 8:50-9:10am Lehigh University Presenter: 9:15-9:35am The University of Texas-Austin Presenter: 9:40-10:00am Oregon State University Presenters:	TBD
10-10:20am	Networking Break	Riverwalk Room
10:25am-12:25pm	10:25-10:45am University of California-Davis Presenter: 10:50-11:10am University of California-San Diego Presenters: 11:15-11:35am University of California-Berkeley Presenter: 11:40am-12:00pm University of Florida Presenter: 12:05-12:25pm The University of Texas-Austin TACC Presenter:	La Villita Room

12:30-1:30pm	Networking Lunch	Riverwalk Room
1:30-3:00pm	Social Science Research CONVERGE, University of Colorado – Boulder	La Villita Room
3:00-3:15pm	Networking Break	Riverwalk Room
3:15-4:45pm	Designing a NHERI Research Proposal <i>Attendees will collaboratively design a research proposal which incorporates NHERI experimental facility (EF), simulation center, cyber infrastructure, and RAPID resources. Representatives from NHERI sites will be available to answer specific questions about the use of the facilities and resources. Teams will present their draft research proposals and reflections of their work to the group.</i>	La Villita Room
4:45-5:00pm	Reflections & Day 2 Evaluations	La Villita Room
5:00-5:30pm	NHERI and CAREER Awardee Panel	TBD
5:30-7:30pm	NHERI User Forum Networking Event	TBD

NHERI Summer Institute Day 3
Friday, June 7, 2019

Time	Description	Location
7:45-8:30am	Breakfast	Riverwalk Room
8:00-8:30am	Registration ✓ <i>Please sign in daily.</i>	UTSA Conference Center Lobby
8:30am-10:00pm	Social Science and Broader Impacts Design	La Villita Room
10:00-10:20pm	Networking Break	Riverwalk Room
10:20-12:00pm	Proposal Working Meetings	La Villita Room
12:00-12:45pm	Networking Lunch	Riverwalk Room
12:45-2:00pm	Proposal Presentations	La Villita Room
2:00-2:30pm	Awards and Reflection	La Villita Room
2:30-5:00pm	NHERI Leadership Meetings	
	<i>User Form Meeting</i>	Alamo Boardroom
2:30-3:30pm	<i>Joint User Forum and NIAC Meeting</i>	Alamo Boardroom
3:30-4:30pm	<i>NIAC Meeting</i>	El Paseo A Room
3:00-4:00pm	<i>ECO Committee Meeting</i>	El Paseo B Room