

NHERI Council Monthly Meeting No. 8, Y-8
February 8, 2024 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Eastern (11:00 to Noon, Pacific)

NHERI Council Meetings

Title: NHERI Council - Spring 2024

Location: <https://DesignSafe-ci.zoom.us/j/99852745577>

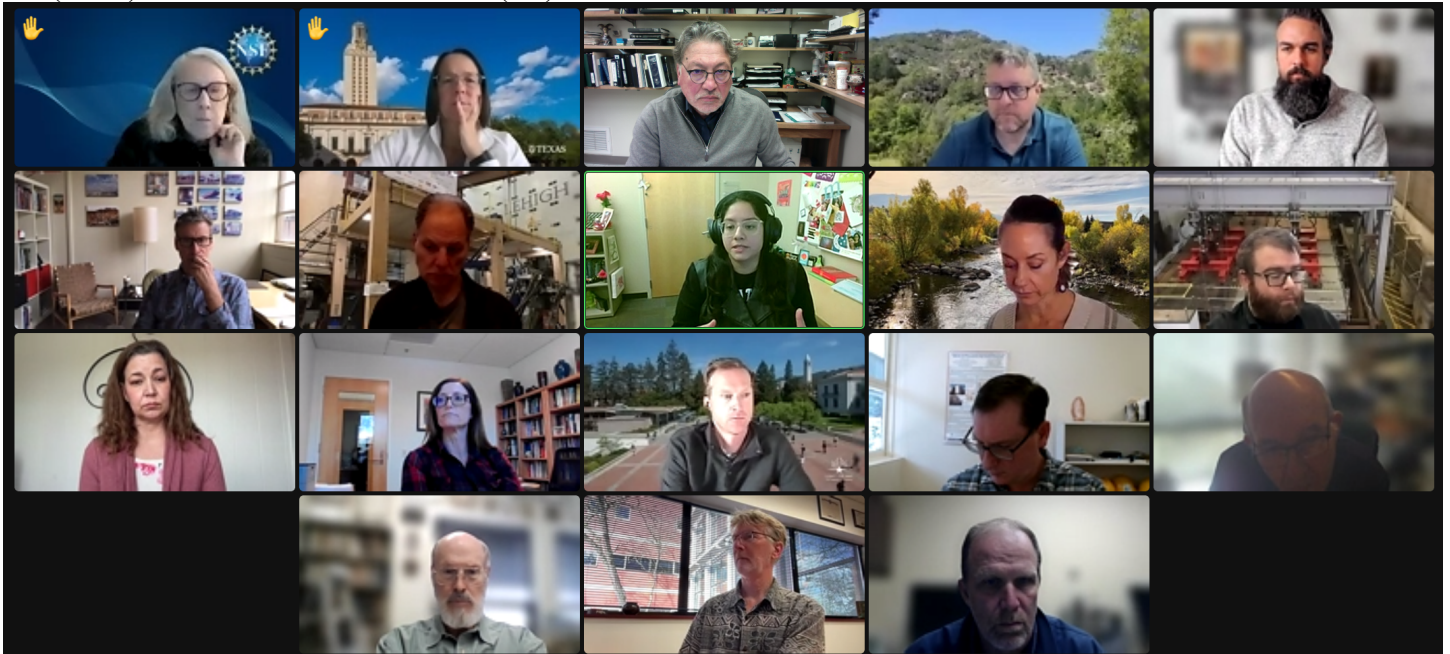
When: February 8, 2:00 to 3:00 PM Eastern

Attending:

- Oregon State University: Dan Cox (EF Dir.) and Pedro Lomonaco (Fac. Dir.) Hinsdale
- University of California, Berkeley: Matt DeJong (Co-Dir.), and Matt Schoettler (Assoc. Dir. – Ops), Stanford University: Greg Deierlein (Co-Dir), SimCenter
- University of California, Davis: Jason DeJong (EF Dir) and Dan Wilson (Assoc. Dir.) CGM
- University of California, San Diego: Joel Conte (EF Dir.,) LHPOST
- University of Colorado Boulder: Lori Peek (Dir., CONVERGE)
- University of Florida: Jennifer Bridge (EF Dir. and Council Chair) Powell Lab
- University of Texas at Austin: Ellen Rathje (CI Dir.) and Tim Cockerill (Dep. Proj. Dir.) DesignSafe-CI
- University of Texas at Austin: Ken Stokoe (EF Dir.), Tricia Clayton (CoPi), and Sungmoon Hwang (syongmoon@utexas.edu) (Operations Manager) Texas Mobile Equipment Facility
- University of Washington: Joe Wartman (EF Dir. and Council Vice-Chair) and Jeff Berman (CoPI and Fac. Manager) RAPID
- National Science Foundation: Joy Pauschke (Prog. Dir, NHERI)
- Purdue University: Julio Ramirez (NCO Dir., Council Secretary), JoAnn Browning (NCO ECO Leader), and Dan Zehner (NCO Sch./Ops. Coord.)
- Florida International University: Arindam Chowdhury (EF Dir.), Ioannis Sizis (CoPI) and Steve Diaz (Site Operations Manager) WOW
- Lehigh University: Jim Ricles (EF Dir.), Liang Cao (lic418@lehigh.edu), Joe Saunders, (Facility Manager)
- Guests:

Minutes

1. (5 min) Attendance and introductions (All)



2. (3 min) Review and Approval of Minutes of 1/11/24 Meeting No. 7 in Y-8 (Joe Wartman.)

Minutes of 1/11/24 were approved as distributed. Lori moved and Jennifer seconded the motion.

Joe asked Joy if it would be acceptable to invite Jared to join the Council Meeting on March 7 to present on the Decadal Study Report. Joy agreed with the invitation but suggested to offer Jared April 4 as an alternate date. Joy also asked Julio for at least an estimate of the amount in the Supplement request to support the Summit 2024 by next week. Julio indicated that after the meeting of the ad-hoc task group this coming Tuesday he will convey the estimated amount.

Action Item: Joe will extend the invitation on behalf of the Council.

Approved Minutes posted at: <https://www.designsafe-ci.org/facilities/nco/governance/nheri-council/>

3. (40 min) Old Business –

a. Summit 2024 Activities (10 minutes)

- i. Update Summit 2024 May 14-15, 2024 College Park, MD (Dan Cox, Jennifer Bridge, and Julio Ramirez, 5 min)

Dan and Jennifer updated the Council on the developments of the program for Day 1. Currently working on the details of keynote speaker, and one more panel. Lightning talks nominations from the Council continue to come. Please keep suggesting. Julio updated the Council on the travel awards for early career and the deadline of February 9. To date 133 applications from early career researchers include senior graduate students, post-docs, faculty and professionals. He encouraged the Council members to make decisions on possible travel support for their staff and users in particular in case there is possible overlap with the travel award applications to leverage those and support more participants. He noted that the NCO will be supporting NIAC and User Forum representatives, representation from the TTC and GSC to attend.

- ii. Suggestions for possible Lightning Talks and suggestions for Day 1 booths, etc. (Dan Cox, 5 min)

Please continue to nominate.

- b. User Satisfaction Survey Results (2023) (Maggie Corwin, 10 minutes)

Maggie presented the highlights for the report (slides are attached to these Minutes). The full report can be found in the User Forum page in DesignSafe-CI:

<https://www.designsafe-ci.org/community/user-forum/>

The highlights include an increase in the number of responses from previous years. The survey was deployed in two forms. The full survey and the module of 4 questions appended to the exit survey from the facilities. The full survey had 74 responses and the module 203.

- c. Topics for discussion in 2024 (25 minutes)

- i. Update on NHERI Educational Programs (Robin Nelson, 12 minutes)

Robin updated the Council on the status of three NHERI-wide Education programs led by the NCO and the ECO Committee. These are the REU program, Summer Institute and Graduate Student Council. The update slides are attached to these Minutes.

- ii. Next phase of the NIED-EDefense/NHERI research collaboration- update (Julio Ramirez, 3 minutes)

Julio provided an update on the planning meeting held at UCSD where the framework for the research collaboration and next steps were discussed. The agenda and list of participants is attached to these Minutes. The report and pdfs of the presentations will be made available to the public as a project in the Data Depot. A follow up workshop with broader community participation is planned to discuss possible research collaborations. Tokyo and December of 2024, were identified as venue and possible timeframe for the workshop.

- iii. Additional topics (Joe Wartman- 10 minutes)

Possible topic for the next Council meeting is a briefing on the report of the decadal study by Jared Kusters or one of his collaborators in the project. Joe will confirm this later this month.

4. New Business

Matt DeJong gave a brief report on the Computational Simulation Symposium at UCLA. More than 200 attendees participated in lightning talk sessions, training sessions and worked in groups in key areas of data and simulation. Matt Schoettler followed up via e-mail with the summary of the Symposium activities and observations below in response to a question from Joe Wartman about additional details.

“Hi Dan, Jennifer, Julio, and Joe,

With Joe's question to Matt D today during the NHERI Council Meeting, I wanted to share some of the things that we did differently and share my observations about the NHERI Computational Symposium held last week:

- We had 215 confirmed registrations
 - we had 8 cancellations within a week
 - we had about as many no-shows, which was a surprise
 - The inclement weather and health were likely reasons for these drop offs
- We held a team dinner the night before, which allowed us to catch up and discuss before the event. This allowed us to focus more time with attendees rather than each other. (this was an unanticipated budget

expense, so maybe think of including it as an item in your supplement if there is a group who you would convene for dinner)

- Encouraging participation from underrepresented groups
 - We see that those institutions or groups who are in-the-know repeatedly request travel funds.
 - We reached out to a few select organizations for nominations of students or postdocs whose work aligns with the theme of the event.
 - This allowed us to reach people who had not heard of us or the event, and I think this worked very well as an outreach effort.
 - A few travel grants were reserved for this purpose to ensure broader participation.
- Seating Assignments
 - We assigned seating, following what was done at the last Summit.
 - This was done to facilitate discussion. We strategically placed personnel at each table and tasked them with encouraging discussion.
 - Early feedback on this is positive, with a few people saying that without a presenter at their table they didn't have a discussion topic; Posting discussion questions on the screen could have improved this. We also heard that people felt torn between going and talking to a presenter at another table and feeling obligated to engage with their assigned table, but I feel this is a good thing: we created compelling community at the tables and also had compelling speakers/content.
- We had a casual pizza lunch (for 125!) at the end of the event and before the optional training workshops, which was a hit. People liked the opportunity to mingle, I think.
- We hired a photographer for Day 1, and I think this was a worthwhile investment
 - See the attachment below for a sample of the photos.
 - After registering, we had poster presenters temporarily set up their poster on a nearby easel and had the photographer take their photo with the poster.
 - We had the photographer drop his photos in a publicly viewable cloud folder so attendees could grab photos of themselves and share them on social media or for other publicity opportunities. Roughly 20 attendees posted over that week, which helps bring attention to the event.
 - Ensure you repeatedly broadcast the hashtags (we used #NHERICompSym) you want people to use when posting. We could have done more of this.
- Feedback mechanisms
 - Standard exit survey.
 - Someone from our independent evaluation team was on-site. She was introduced at the beginning of the symposium and interacted with attendees on breaks and during lunch about their experiences with the SimCenter and our tools. We're looking forward to hearing about the insight this unique feedback mechanism provides.
 - I was encouraged by the exit survey comment "I can see a few proposals materializing from this". We do not hold a user workshop that emphasizes proposal preparation. The Symposium is a our attempt to foster and facilitate proposals, along with recruit new users, build community, educate and inform on our tools, and foster collaborations. It is a lot to do in 1.5 days!
- Poster template
 - Our poster template (and slide template) was drafted by DesignSafe's graphical artist, Matt S. (no relation).
 - We provided space in the header for a headshot of the presenter and a QR code for their LinkedIn page.
 - We provided space for a QR code to a link to a full paper, if applicable
 - DesignSafe's Matt put in a banner for a punchline, which was a nice way to succinctly summarize the work.
 - People appreciated that we categorized the posters into topics and had headings above the posters so you could see the context (e.g. hazard) as you approached.
- Optional Workshop training sessions

- Registration for these was optional so the headcount was uncertain. During onsite registration we asked if attendees were planning to attend, and also asked if they were planning to join the informal lunch beforehand. This enabled us to get an approximate headcount the day before the training sessions.
 - 6 sessions were offered in 2 tracks so attendees could attend more than one session. Approximately 65 people participated.
 - Joy hosted Office hours with NSF during
- On-site personnel - we recruited 4 student volunteers to assist during the event, particularly during registration, poster setup, poster strike-down, and note taking during breakout sessions.
 - Favorable feedback (from the 2022 Computational Symposium) about lightning talks was incorporated: of 90 presentations in 1.5 days, nearly 60 were lightning talks. However, there needs to be a break between talks (or after several talks in a row) or it is information overload.”

5. Adjourn

Julio moved and Steve Diaz seconded the motion to adjourn. Council meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM Eastern.