



NSUF Users Organization

Yong Yang (UO Chair)



History and Missions

- Started in 2010
- Defined in UO Charter – updated April 2016
 - Provide a formal and clear channel for the exchange of information, advice and best practices between the investigators and the NSUF management
 - Educate and inform all stakeholders regarding experimental activities at the NSUF
 - Facilitate communications among users of the NSUF.

Keep a live Charter for improvement.

Membership

- Membership **open to anyone** interested in the NSUF

- Users
- Potential users
- Past users
- Scientists and engineers engaged in operation and development of NSUF facilities (including partner facilities)



Membership development: recruiting, retaining, and engagement

Leadership

- Executive Committee
 - Nine members, including Chair, Secretary, Chair Ex-Officio, **two** student member, and up to **four** regular members.
 - The four regular members shall be elected by the UO membership each year and serve a **four** year term. The student member position, reserved for either a graduate student or a postdoc fellow, and shall serve a **two**-year term. Chair and Secretary/Chair-Elect selected by Executive Committee members
 - Changes were made in the charter: adding two more regular members (one regular member and one student member)

Improve the leadership by setting up actively functioning sub-committees

Executive Committee

- Current Members
 - Chair – Yong Yang, University of Florida (since 2016)
 - Secretary/Chair-Elect – TBD
 - Immediate Past Chair – Peng Xu, Westinghouse Electric company
 - Keith J. Leonard, ORNL (since 2016)
 - Jessika Rojas, VCU (since 2015)
 - Peter Hosemann, UCB (since 2015)
 - Student Member - Matthew Swenson, BSU (since 2015)

**Plan 2017 spring election to fulfill the open positions
and activate the EC members**

Activities

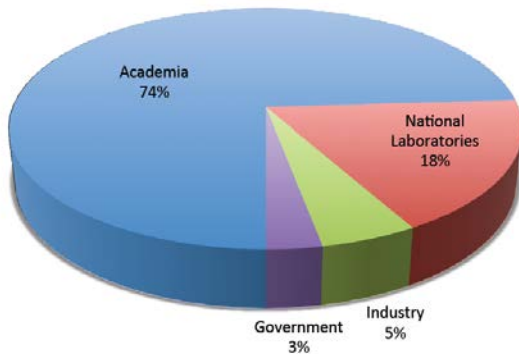
- Provided input/feedback to NSUF management on a variety of topics (mostly driven by comments received from users)
 - Proposal process
 - User engagement
 - Sample library policy
 - Utilization of partner facilities
 - User week meeting
 - Experiment planning, scheduling, and executing
- Created three committees to address specific topics
 - User Week
 - Education and Outreach
 - Capabilities and Infrastructure
 - Membership in committees is open to any UO member and broad participation is encouraged
- Participated in NSUF booth at various national meetings, i.e. ANS and TMS annual conference meetings

Help to organize NSUF technical sessions at national conferences

Member Demographics

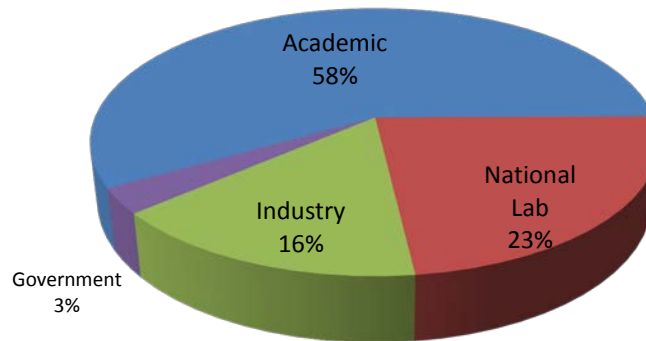
- NSUO is still young and in his early stage
- Significant growth in 2014 and 2015
- More members from national labs and industry participated in 2015
- However, a plateau of memberships growth is observed, recently.

Member Affiliation



2014

Member Affiliation

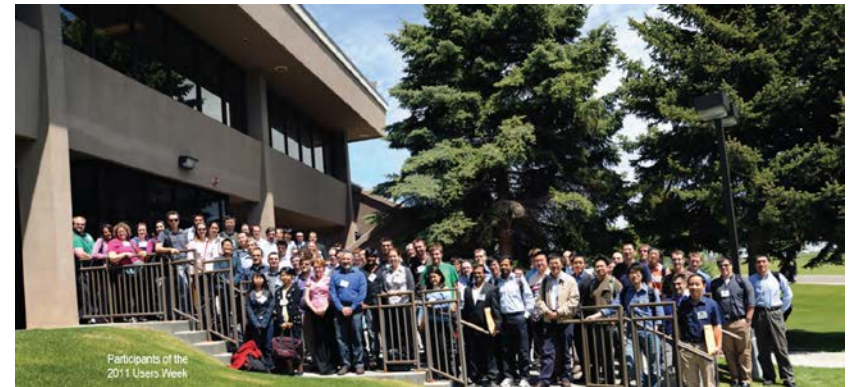


2015

Initiatives to significantly member retaining and growth are needed.

Meetings

- Annual User Week in June at INL
 - The most important event and communication avenue for UO
- Sponsored technical meetings at national conferences
 - 2016 TMS
 - 2016 ANS
- Executive Committee meetings
 - User Week
 - Teleconference as needed, but at least once per quarter
 - National meetings such as TMS Annual and Winter ANS
 - Partner facility [site meeting](#) is suggested



User Week Committee

- Matthew Swenson and Dave Senior, Chair for User Week 2016 committee
- Provides input on timing, format, content, location and other aspects of User Week
 - Matthew has been leading the effort and put together a draft of User Week Meeting Agenda for 2016 with comments from the rest of committee members
- User Week is the annual meeting of the UO – strong participation and input from members during planning is critical
 - It is planned to solicit user feedbacks on the user week meeting experience and suggestions on improvement
- Vision for User Week 2016
 - User Week should be “go-to” meeting for users to share experiences and ideas on NSUF projects
 - Helps build a vibrant and interactive user base
 - Fosters communication between users and NSUF staff
 - Transitioning from mostly educational format to mostly technical exchange (will retain some educational component to benefit new users)
 - User week meeting has always been hosted at INL
 - Live conferencing is a great approach to reach out to partner facilities

2016 NSUF User Week Summary

- High quality technical presentations
- Less partner facility engagement
- Less education and training presentations
- The turnout was relatively low as compared with previous years for several possible reasons

Efforts are needed to improve the User Week workshop as it shall be the most important meeting for this organization.

Education and Outreach Committee

- Jessica Rojas, Chair
- Focuses on growing the UO membership and improving communication with stakeholders
 - Important component to the vision of growing NSUF beyond irradiation testing to embrace the wider nuclear materials and fuels community
 - Aligned well with NSUF's missions
 - Strong university representation in UO, reflecting early focus of NSUF on university-led research
 - Opportunities now exist to grow industry and national laboratory participation in the NSUF and UO
 - Developed NSUO brochure
- Planned activities
 - Developing NSUO website



Capabilities and Infrastructure Committee

- Yong Yang, past-Chair
- Work closely with Brenden Heidrich to support the NEID development
 - Participated in database survey and trial runs
 - Collected and Provided comments to the NEID
 - Participated in NEID Database Review Panel
- Will continue to support future efforts in NEID by promote more inputs from the UO members (survey for highly needed facilities)

Suggestions on Membership Development and User Engagement

- Increase number of members
 - Form a membership development sub-committee
 - Formulate a mechanism to have PIs and students of funded project automatically become UO members
 - Attendees at User Week or other NSUF workshops automatically become UO members?
 - Team up with ANS or other professional societies
 - Sponsor and present at the ANS student conferences
 - Encourage the current members to help on recruiting through the social media (UO FB page, LinkedIn group)
 - Provide on-site sign up using an IPAD, QR code?
- Improve user engagement
 - Advise to have more rapid turnaround awards and promote engagement from partner facilities
 - Advise to make it required to present at the User Week meeting for the funded projects at least one time over the project duration (help to organize a session for PI project reviewing)
 - Suggest to sponsor or organize technical sessions at other professional meetings
 - 2016 TMS Meeting: Accelerated Materials Evaluation for Nuclear Application Utilizing Test Reactors, Ion Beam Facilities and Integrated Modeling — Ion Beam Irradiation and In-situ TEM, organized by James Cole and Peter Hosemann
 - 2016 ANS Meeting: Nuclear Fuels and Structural Materials (NFSM-2016) organized by Yong Yang, and etc.
 - Future meetings, 2017 TMS meeting, 2017 Environmental Degradation, 2017 ANS student national meeting.

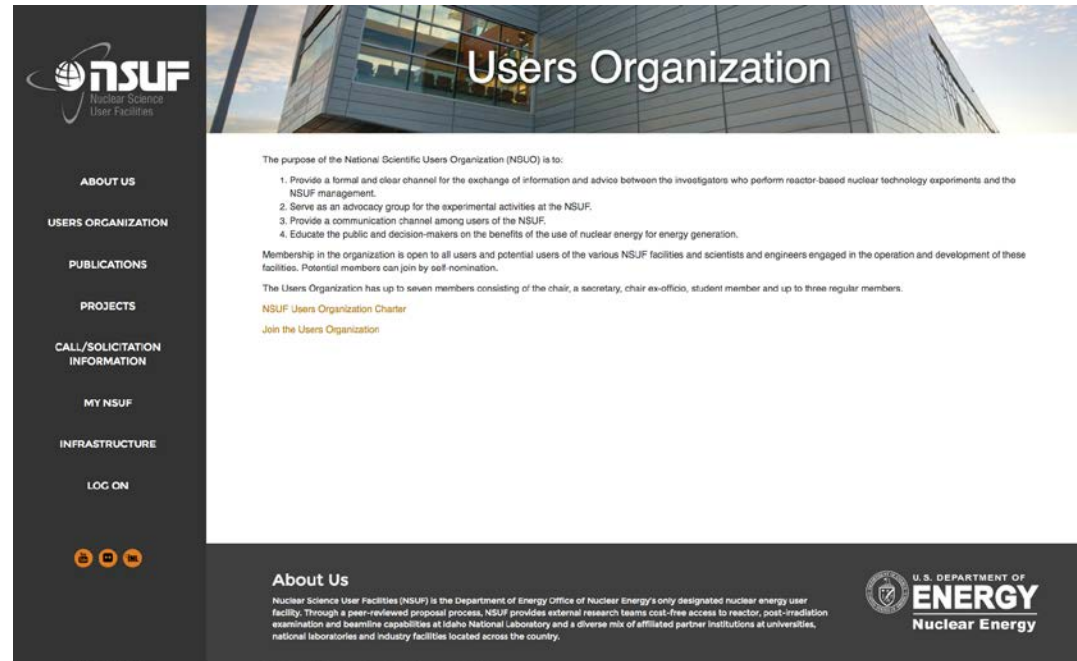
Planning for 2017 NSUF User Week Meeting

- An EC sub-committee will be formed
 - Collect feedback from 2016 meeting and provide suggestions to NSUF
 - Help to organize the sessions for 2017 meeting
 - Balance the project technical presentations with education/training lectures
 - Balance the INL and non-INL presentations
 - Solicit potential attendees by reaching them individually
 - Prestigious speakers should be considered
 - Reach out to gain more industry participation

NSUO Web Page

<https://nsuf.inl.gov/Page/nsuo>

- NSUO webpage is now set up on the new NSUF homepage
- Significantly efforts are needed to improve the webpage for being more informative, interactive, and lively updated.



Summary

- NSUO is an active user group with a significant growth of the users over the past several years, and tremendous support has been provided by NSUF management
- Significant efforts are needed to further increase the members and to promote the engagement.