

MINUTES of IRD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 2024

Isotopes and Radiation Division

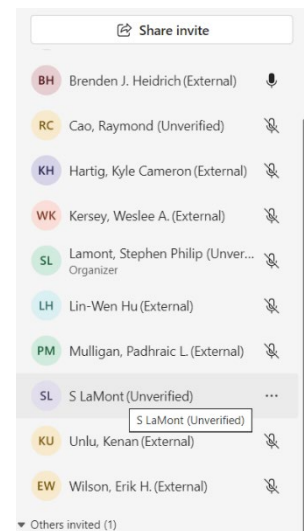
Virtual Meeting

June 16, 2024 - 2:00-3:30 pm (PDT)

ANS Annual Conference

Attendants (Virtual via Teams):

Stephen P. Lamont, Kenan Unlu, Lin-Wen Hu, Erik Wilson, Brenden Heidrich, Padhraic Mulligan, Cao Raymond, Kersey Weslee, Kyle Hartig, Sam Glover, Miltos Alamaniotis



1) IRD Executive Committee Meeting call to order

Call ordered.

2) Review and Approval of Past Minutes from November 2023 IRD EC Meeting

Stephen moved to approve. Kenan seconded. Minutes were approved. No objections.

3) ANS Operations Overview

a. Certification Program

- i. The Certification Program has moved ahead rapidly over this past year. Two initial certifications proposed: a 12-16 hour “US Licensing & Regulatory Framework” certificate which will be offered online later in 2024; and a 20 hour “Nuclear 101” course intended to introduce non-nuclear professionals to nuclear engineering which will debut at 2024 ANS Winter Conference. Other ideas still being considered and solicited.

NOTES: - The two above mentioned certifications are near completion. Steve and Kyle have supported the development from the IRD side. Special thanks were given to Steve Biegalski and Kyle Hartig who have supported the development of the Nuclear 101 course.

- In the meeting Steve Biegalski solicited ideas for new certificates from the IRD members.

- Lin-Wen Hu asked whether the certificate through a private company.. Steve also mentioned that there is a cost for those certificates and ANS see them as a source of revenue.

b. K-12 Initiative

- i. Targets students and educators, 80 ANS-trained ambassadors

NOTES: *Steve asked for volunteers. Whoever is interested in becoming an ambassador may contact Steve.* The call will be sent out to the IRD list.

c. Website Updates

- i. IRD's website was just transitioned to the new platform, and it should now be easier to post timely information and updates. Should we consider a website and communications position for the EC? Secretary? Chair? Etc.
- ii. NOTES: looking for a volunteer to take over the web site. Miltos volunteered to take over the web site and he asked for the credential. Steve is touch with ANS to find the credentials and pass them over to Miltos.

d. ANS Financial Stability

- i. Things are stabilizing and turning around. There was a one-time expenses related to moving into a new leased HQ space, which is now complete. Building sale added \$3M to balance sheet in 2023; philanthropic donations have exceeded expectations helping to alleviate shortfalls. Operating expenses in 2024 still exceeded revenue by ~ \$1M.

NOTES: There were expenses for moving to the next facility of ANS. In general 2023 was a good year. *2024 so far (June 2024) ANS is in red: it is shortfall of \$1M.*

- ii. 10,300 individual members of ANS, students, graduate students, and young members make up 30%, compared with 37.5% for established members.
NOTES: number of ANS people currently reached the level of population just before COVID. There are many new graduates that have joined the ANS. The main ANS revenue comes from the meetings and not from membership.

e. ANS Outreach and PR

- i. Activity is increasing and more specifically there is increase in : ans.org users, Nuclear News Daily readership, Nuclear Newswire views, ANS webinar sponsorships.

NOTES: Special note was that the number of users increases rapidly: for instance 20,000 people are in the nuclear news list. There are a lot of opportunities for webinars. *Steve solicited invitations for ANS webinars from our list.*

- ii. Rapid Response Task Force

- ANS was able to respond.
- New partnership with ACTIOS.
- Use of AI algorithms to identify readers and get them hooked.
- Article in financial times about small modular reactors related to IRD.

NOTES: However, most of the responses have to do with policy, as Steve said. Discussion that IRD should have someone on the response Task. {Some concerns were raised *about Scott Kemp from MIT about his articles* – it was mentioned by Wen Lin that Scot Kemp is a nuclear policy person not technical}.

f. ANS Publications

- i. Page charges were removed for NS&T, NT, and FS&T in 2022. This is also continued through now (June 2024).
- ii. Open access publications increasing, the increase of open access articles is ~20%
- iii. Article downloads steadily increasing

NOTES: It was mentioned that the transition to an open access publication strategy has a positive impact. 1/5 of the paper are now open access.

g. ANS Meetings

- i. Discussions continue about moving to a single annual ANS conference. Still ~5 years out from this being implemented though because of the meeting contracts already in place for conference venues (hotels).
- ii. Conference attendance is generally up for both national and topical conferences.
NOTES: - There was a survey about moving to a single conference, with the response being favorable response for one meeting. It was mentioned that a single annual conference will likely start in 2028. There is a plan to rename the meeting to a “conference”. The conference will take place in November. *There may be a summer event, but no technical meeting will take place in the event.* It is unknown the final form of the “conference” at the current point. When the single meeting format is followed, the government meetings will be only one per year.
- *Topical meetings are doing even better than the summer meeting.* There is an opportunity for IRD for influencing the meeting. Looking for technical program chairs in ANS starting in 2027. Kenan said that his personal opinion is that one meeting might not be a good idea right now. There were opinions that the ANS should retain the 2 meetings per year. Steve will pass on this feedback to Ray Klann.
- It was mentioned that the MSDD moved to an abstract form instead of full papers. There was a discussion whether IRD should move to an abstract only presentations as well.
- Discussion was performed what IRD should do. Kenan and Sam detailed their experience in what has happened in the last 10 years by moving to meeting transactions. A short discussion about the ANS publication conference impact and form was made by the participants.

h. Trustees of Nuclear Corporate Program (Derek)

NOTES: Steve has no update on that, and Derek is not up today. So, no updates this time.

4) Treasure’s Report (Downing)

Our balance is \$81,000. Our membership will go up this year. Steve detailed what the financial table states (that was sent to all of us by Stephen). All details are given in the attached excel spreadsheet.

5) IRD Statistics – new snapshot system

- a. Key stats: 859 to 967 members, basically at the all-time high.

NOTES: increase in memberships. Graduate student composition is about 30%. Steve discussed the most important statistical numbers. Overall, our statistics are encouraging. *An increasing number of young people joined IRD.* Kenan mentioned that the dissolution of BMD helped the IRD to increase our numbers.

6) Division Committees

a. Program

- i. IRD Sessions at June 2024 ANS Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV
- ii. IRD Sessions at November 2024 ANS Winter Meeting in Orlando, FL
- iii. IRD Sessions at June 2025 ANS Annual Conference in Chicago, IL

iv. MARC XIII

v. Other conferences of interest to IRD

NOTES: Kenan described the sessions at ANS annual meeting. There was a total of 17 papers. There was a session cosponsored with NNPD. There were two cosponsored with RPD. In Orlando, it is planned to have 3 technical sessions and 1 panel. Currently, the annual meeting in Chicago will have as an embedded the NPIC-HMIT meeting. *Kenan solicited ideas for papers and sessions for future meetings.* There was a discussion on how the IRD can have sessions on SMR instrumentation.

Kenan mentioned other meetings: > Future Plutonium meeting in September, > IEEE NSSS in late October, > Methods and Applications meeting (MARC) in the end of March 2025, > ANIMA 2025 in Vanecia Spain, > Int. Conf. on Isotopes in 2026 that will take place in Italy.

b. Honors and Awards

- i. Vogt Award
- ii. Gozani Family Graduate Scholarship
- iii. Radiation Science & Technology Award
- iv. Website information – *need to update website with new winners now that new website is available*
- v. Additional funding – *Glover looking into pros and cons of adding IRD funds to various award endowments*

NOTES: Sam has no access to the award links. *Sam mentioned that there was an undergrad that won the Vogt award twice; this was bizarre situation.* Sam did not know the final list of the awardees and he further asked the list of the travel awards for the MARC conference.

- The question was raised whether a student is allowed to apply for more than once; all attendants agreed that there should be a limited number of times, where an applicant can submit. Also, it was highlighted that there is a shortage of applicants. > **There is a motion to allow students to win the award once as undergraduate and once as graduate students.** The motion was approved and nobody was opposed, no abstain as well. The motion passed.

7) Subcommittees

- a. Industrial Measurements and Applications (Cao)
- b. Nuclear and Atomic Analysis (Glover & LaMont)
- c. Radiation Effects (Cazalas)
- d. Transuranics (Sjoden)
- e. Safeguards, Forensics and Non-Proliferation (Biegalski/Hartig)
- f. Research Reactors (Hu/Wilson)
- g. Isotope Production (Bowen)
- h. Neutron Sources, Neutron Beams and Applications (Unlu)
- i. Gamma and Neutron Imaging Applications (Jovanovic)
- j. Development and Applications of Nuclear Technology for the Life Sciences (Steinhauser/Steiner)

NOTES: due to limited time there was no explicit updates from the subcommittees. No objection was raised.

8) Other Interfaces and Contacts

- a. Standards Committee Interface (Burns and Downing)
 - i. ANS-19.8, Fission Product Yields for ^{235}U , ^{238}U , and ^{239}Pu (Chair and Members)

- ii. ANS-19.12, Nuclear Data for Isotope Production Calculations for Medical and Other Applications (Chair and Members)

1. The two standards listed above are right in IRD's lane – and ripe for and IRD member to lead. Any volunteers? Do we believe these standards should continue?

NOTES: Erik mentioned that he can find 2-3 people that can work on those. Lin Wen Hu said that she interested in the 1

b. ANS-15 – Licensing research reactors

- Lin-Wen to find someone to participate on this committee, and she is interested in this.

c. Environmental and Siting Consensus Committee

- Kim to send an email to group requesting interest

NOTES: Still looking for a volunteer for this committee

d. Safety and Radiological Analysis

- Looking for volunteers.

9) Old Business:

a. YMG recruiting and IRD membership (Jim & Peter)

b. Newsletter / website

c. Update Bylaws and Rules (Jim B)

i. Still in limbo – current “IRD approved Bylaws” have not been approved

d. Document management - options

NOTES: Bylaws has not been approved yet was confirmed by Steve. No new on document management.

10) New Business

a. ANS Student Meeting

- The ANS student meeting will take place in University of New Mexico. Part of it in UNM campus and part of it in the hotel.
- Looking for volunteers to review papers and judges.
- Officially we were not asked for financial support, but Steve said that we should do it. *Kenan mentioned that we should provide an award of \$500 for the best paper award related to IRD. Motion was made by Lin and seconded by Kenan. Motion was approved.*
- The discussion on the ANS student conference was continued. Sam said that Jim and other people reviewed papers for IRD (posters and presentations). Given that Kenan's motion for \$500 to the best paper was approved, Sam requested an amount of \$2000 support to be given for the 2025 conference. This money is given as award money to the best paper awards, thus, 4 best paper awards will be given with \$500 per paper as approved earlier. *Sam moved and Kenan seconded it.*

b. Other topics?

Nothing was mentioned on other topics.

11) Conclusion

Notes: Motion to adjourn by Steve. Sam was seconded.