



Subcommittee for Research & Innovation (SCRI)

Meeting Report -- March 24, 2016

Present: Greg Baker (Chair), Adam Barowy, Hubert Biteau, David Charters, Albert Condello, Luca Fiorentini, Jason Floyd, Gavin Horn, Bryan Hoskins, Ann Jeffers, Amanda Kimball, David Sheppard, Seth Sienkiewicz, William Shields, Tom Woodford, Aixi Zhou and Chris Jelenewicz (Staff).

Apologies: James Lords, Guillermo Rein, Cristian Maluk, and Chee Sheng Ow

The following was discussed:

- **Welcome and Introductions** -- The Chair welcomed all members to the subcommittee as this was the first meeting of the SFPE Subcommittee for Research and Innovation (SCRI). All members were asked to give a brief introduction.
- **Overview of New SFPEs Committee Structure** – As part of SFPEs new strategic plan, all existing SFPE committees were disbanded and five new standing committees were started – Committee on 1) Research, Tools and Methods (RTM), 2) Professional Qualifications, 3) Continuing Education, 4) Membership and 5) Advocacy.

The SCRI is part of the RTM Committee that is chaired by Brian Meacham. The RTM also has the following subcommittees 1) Subcommittee on Standards Oversight, 2) Subcommittee on Handbook Development, 3) Subcommittee on Standards and Guide and 4) Subcommittee on Codes and Standards Liaison. Generally, Brian's role as committee chair is to coordinate activities between subcommittees and to represent the committee at SFPE Board Meetings.

- **Scope of Subcommittee** – The scope of the SCRI is to chart future research priorities for the profession, and communicate back, SFPE research priorities and directions for the future. Specifically, the subcommittee is charged with facilitating the development and implementation of a research agenda (roadmap) for the fire protection/fire safety engineering profession.

It was noted that when developing this roadmap, the SCRI should ensure the process 1) is transparent to SFPE membership, 2) has a global perspective and 3) includes input from all important stakeholders in the fire protection/safety engineering community.

Although, the roadmap is the only specific required output specifically mentioned in the SFPE Strategic plan, as a new subcommittee the SCRI has the opportunity to chart its future direction including but not limited to ensuring 1) the roadmap is implemented (after roadmap is complete), 2) update the roadmap as it should be a dynamic document, 3) make recommendations to the SFPE Subcommittee on Standards Oversight on new guides & standards based on findings from roadmap process and 4) communicate research and innovation needs to the SFPE Board.

It was suggested that fire service research related to interaction with fire protection systems and building occupants should be considered.

It was also suggested that the SFPE Risk Guide that was published in 2006 is in need of a revision as the body-of-knowledge in the area of risk has grown since this document was published.

- **Review of 2000 SFPE Research Agenda** – In 2000 SFPE Published “A Research Agenda for Fire Protection Engineering.” The subcommittee was asked to review this document. The 2000 document was based on input from a workshop that included 70 attendees. In the report the attendees identified four primary areas where research is most urgently needed: 1) Fire phenomena, 2) Human behavior, 3) Risk and 4) Data.

It was noted that the subcommittee is not required to follow the same format used in the 2000 document, but at the same time, there may be information that is useful that can be used by the subcommittee.

It was noted that there is also existing research related documents that may be helpful to the subcommittee including 1) NIST roadmap (2012), 2) National Firefighters Foundation (2015), 3) Fire Protection Research Foundation (2014), 4) International Education Forum, Leigh University, and 5) several mentioned by Gavin Horn.

It was agreed that the subcommittee will do an environmentally friendly scan of current published type activates. Subcommittee members were asked to send these documents to CJ.

- **Workshop at SFPE Warsaw Conference (May 28) and Other Workshop Opportunities** – On May 28, the subcommittee will hold a 4-hour research agenda workshop as part of the SFPE Performance-Based Design Conference in Warsaw. The purpose of this workshop is to give SFPE members the opportunity to provide input into the development of the roadmap. Other possible opportunities for workshops will be the SFPE North America Conference (September), and the TC 92 meeting in Korea (October). Subcommittee members will not be required to attend these workshops, but can participate if they plan on attending the specific conference/meeting.
- **Moving Forward** – It was agreed that three working groups will be started to get things moving:

- **Scope Working Group** – Working group will draft the scope for future subcommittee work. So far Ann Jeffers, Bill Shields, David Charters and Bryan Hoskins have volunteered.
- **Roadmap Working Group** – Working group will draft working plan for the production of the roadmap. So far Al Condello, Jason Floyd, Aixi Zhou, Adam Barowy, Tom Woodford and Amanda Kimball have volunteered.
- **Warsaw Working Group** – Working group will develop an agenda for the workshop in Warsaw. Luca Fiorentini, Greg Baker and CJ will be at the Warsaw conference and will be part of this working group

CJ will assist working group members with scheduling meeting and setting up online meetings.

It was noted, based on the work of these working groups, other working groups will evolve especially related to the development of the roadmap.

Subcommittee members were asked to join at least one of these working groups. They can do so by contacting CJ and indicating his or her group of interest.

- **SFPE Project Management System** – SFPE has a new project management system. The subcommittee will have its own area to post documents and make comments (etc.). To do this, subcommittee members will be required to log-in to their SFPE account on the SFPE website (www.sfpe.org). **Each subcommittee member was asked to try and log-in to his or her account.** If they have any difficulties, please contact CJ.

A list of instructions on how to access this management system is provided as an attachment to this meeting report.

- **Schedule for Deliverables** – It was noted that the subcommittee should aim to have a draft roadmap completed before May 2017. However, ensuring global input from the global fire protection/safety engineering community is essential and should take precedence over schedule.
- **Meeting Frequency and Next Meeting** – The subcommittee will aim to meet about every two months. The next meeting will be scheduled in mid-May. CJ will schedule this meeting.

End of Report