

Minutes of the UEC Meeting of 17 May 2003

Present: Chris White  
John Conway  
Fernanda Garcia  
Leslie Groer  
Sharon Hagopian  
Martin Hennecke (GSA)  
Joey Huston  
Reid Mumford (GSA)  
Rob Plunkett  
Paul Sheldon  
Wendy Taylor  
Bob Tschirhart  
Eric Zimmerman

Absent: Benn Tannenbaum  
Sherry Towers

Guests: Gerry Blazey (D0 Spokesperson), Luciano Ristori (CDF  
Spokesperson),  
John Womersley (D0 Spokesperson)

1. ICAR meeting

Chris briefly recounted the events of the recent meeting in Washington, D.C. of the Illinois Coalition with the Illinois Congressional Delegation, which focused on science funding. Rep. Judy Biggert (R-IL) spoke, as did Mike Witherell, Fermilab Director and Hermann Grunder, Argonne Director.

2. Meeting with Tevatron Experiment Spokespeople

Three of the Tevatron collide experiment spokespeople attended the UEC meeting to discuss the problems we have in communicating our message and getting strong funding support from Washington.

Robin Staffin visited FNAL a week ago to speak about the crisis in funding and the problems with meeting Tevatron luminosity goals. He spoke about the difficulties in communicating the goals and expectations of the labs to the funding agencies in Washington. There is a stark difference in cultures and priorities which makes translating the physics goals into identifiable performance measures very difficult.

This talk was a direct outgrowth of the events of the recent past: the UEC meetings in Washington with OMB/OSTP, the meetings of the Tevatron experiment spokespeople with Ray Orbach, and the growing realization that the Tevatron collide program was "oversold" on the basis of achieving  $15 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  and a possible observation of the Higgs.

We as physicists understand the goals and nature of the Tevatron physics program, but have failed to communicate these to the DOE, OSTP, and OMB in a way that makes the case compelling. There are a number of ideas that were brought up: colloquium at the DOE, monthly summaries of Run 2 results, educational posters and brochures, articles in science magazines, as well as more general outreach.

The question arose as to whether the responsibility for organizing this "upreach" effort lies with the lab or with the collaborations. A good deal of discussion ensued - most felt that there has to be a coordinated effort between the collaborations and the lab in consultation with outside, professional advisers.

### 3. Users' Meeting

Preparations for the Users' Meeting are nearly complete. The schedule is finalized, the posters are up, and the negotiations with the caterers are well advanced. There was some discussion about how to get the word out about the meeting to bring in a good audience and about how to organize the open mike session on the future of Fermilab. This session will be finalized in the coming week. Registration is free, but necessary to attend the dinner. To see the schedule and register, go to:  
[http://www.fnal.gov/orgs/fermilab\\_users\\_org/](http://www.fnal.gov/orgs/fermilab_users_org/)

### 4. Career night

Fernanda reported on the plans for a career night, most likely in July. She plans to have several speakers, including one from outside the lab, and others from the lab and universities.

### 5. Visa-related issues

It has been pointed out by Steven Pordes and others that the requirements for visas and detailed personal information are a major threat to our ability to hold conferences and operate normally as an international research laboratory. Apparently for the Lepton Photon meeting one needs to provide sensitive information over an open website - there are great concerns about the confidentiality and security of this information.

#### 6. IJAS State Science Fair

ICAR and URA awards of \$100 each were given to two high school students. William Edward Thompson St. Ignatius College Prep, received the ICAR Award, for the project "Optimizing Toroid Cavity Detector Sensitivity" and Maggie Bujak, Resurrection High School received the URA Award, for the project "Do Magnetic Fields Affect Light Intensity?" Two UEC awards of \$50 each were given to middle school students. Jonathan Naber, Waterloo Junior High School, received a UEC Award for a project on Cosmic Rays and Solar Flares. Matthew Drake, Grant Middle School, received a UEC Award for a project on Holographic Images of Speaker Vibration. They also received certificates, as well as Fermilab hats and scintillator rulers.

#### 7. Scientific Conduct Panel

Rob Plunkett described the activities of the Panel on Scientific Conduct, recently convened to address the lab's policies on scientific fraud, and preventing it. Given the string of incidents at other laboratories around the country, and indeed in our own field, the panel must craft a relevant and useful policy.