

Minutes of the FNAL UEC Meeting Nov. 6, 2009

Present: Ron Moore, Todd Adams, Marjorie Corcoran, Heather Gerberich, Ashutosh Kotwal, Sarah Lockwitz (GSA) , Mayly Sanchez, Dave Schmitz, William Wester

Remote: Mike Hildreth, Heather Ray, Jon Urheim, Tricia Vahle

News Items

Amanda Petersen from Users Office introduced a new intern, Kenichi Yoshida, who will do a survey of other labs' webpages to investigate how we can improve the information from the Users Office. Fermilab is initiating a new program, Turkey Date, which will match local hosts with lab guests to spend Thanksgiving together. It will be publicized soon. A survey will be used to match people.

Update on holiday party from Young-Kee: There is a potluck planned for Weds. Dec. 16, 2009 5-7pm followed by entertainment 7-8:30pm with skits.

USLUO (USLHC Users' Org) elections were recently held. SLUO (SLAC Users Org) elections this month.

GSA had a halloween party last week.

Sub-committee reports:

Users' Meeting: we have received some information about Indian restaurants to cater dinner. The bids are cheaper than last year's event. The barn party is a separate event. Paul Palmer was suggested as a public speaker, but there were some questions about the appropriateness.

Quality of Life: met with Jack Hawkins and Cheryl Bentham who oversee Housing, cafeteria, Users Center, and Chez Leon. Housing is at full capacity with steady improvements in current facilities. The cafeteria looked at extended hours, but not cost effective. Saturday service is provided despite losing money. Patronage is down at Chez Leon. Users are encouraged to come for lunch or dinner. The Users Center has considered new options, but will remain with core service. Committee was impressed with steady improvement in services.

Outreach: one meeting to discuss ideas to do this year. No stand-alone outreach workshop will be planned this year, possibly bi-yearly event? We will develop a poster for rescheduled NUFO event, but Ron reports the event will not be rescheduled anytime soon. The committee wants to develop a display related to Fermilab for public locations (O'Hare, Midway, libraries), currently investigating what might be involved.

International Users: would like to meet Amanda Petersen for meeting to get acquainted with issues.

Local congressional visits: will schedule a meeting next week. Chair is gathering information to learn from last year's experience. Ron reports NUFO (National User Facility Organization) won't coordinate activities this year.

Government outreach: we have exchanged email and assigned tasks: (1) one pager, (2) assign primary and secondary meetings, and (3) update webpages. Each assignments has two people (one new person, one person from last year).

The View from Washington (Bridget Glynn, Lewis-Burke Associates)

The President signed the Energy and Water appropriations bill. Only 5 of 12 bills done so far. NSF still under continuing resolution. Senate passed its bill last night. DOE Office of High Energy Physics gets \$810M for FY10 which is an increase of ~\$15M from FY09. There was a HEPAP meeting recently which Bill Brinkman attended. He said HEP has to strongly communicate why we are vital and important. Carol was at a basic energy science meeting yesterday with a briefing on the new DOE Career Awards. \$25M to go to universities while \$60M to labs with decisions in January. 1700 proposals were received. They expect 45 awards to universities @ \$150k/yr for 4 years and 25 awards to labs @ \$500k/yr for 4 years. For FY2011 OMB was told to freeze existing budgets and prepare for reductions based on performance.

Q: What happened to the idea of doubling the science budget?

A: It is still a priority for Obama administration over time, but deficit is adding pressure to make sure there is efficiency. A 3% increase next year would be a success.

Q: Should we still stay on same schedule for the DC trip?

A: We expect a normal schedule for the FY11 budget, so keep early Feb. to mid-Mar. We expect the budget to go to Congress around Feb. 1.

Q: Any feedback from the Accelerators for America's Future symposium?

A: Carol attended and reported there were good presentations.

Q: Does Bill Brinkman know the cost of a muon collider?

A: Unknown.

Q: What ideas resonate with respect to the importance of HEP research?

A: Everyone wants to understand the research and real world impact/applications. They also like things that will attract young people. We need to keep repeating our message to remind/educate people.

Q: If we had one, would have a real economic study help?

A: It would add a talking point, but we don't know how easy that is to get such a study. There was talk that someone was working on this (at U. of Chicago?), but the status is unknown.

Q: With the LHC about to restart, what is the best PR strategy for HEP and Fermilab?

A: Currently the strategy is that success at LHC and Tevatron are in the common interest. We should look at performance of the LHC to tune message for the DC trip.

Q: Who is Mike Holland's replacement at OMB?

A: Don't know, but Carol (from Lewis-Burke Associates) has his name and been in contact.

DOE CD Process (Ed Temple, FNAL Office of Project Management Oversight)

Ed Temple gave a presentation of the DOE Critical Decision (CD) process that projects must go through to receive approval, from initial R&D funding until full construction is complete. The presentation was an update of a seminar that Ed gave last fall at Fermilab.

Chat with Greg Bock

We have more possibilities for projects than we can handle effectively simultaneously, but this is much better than 18 months ago: 10 proposals with Expression of Interest or Letter of Intent: 4 on the intensity frontier and 6 in particle astrophysics. We got CD-3b for Nova and CMS is waiting for beam splash. We are looking forward on all frontiers. We are struggling with indications of a tight budget in FY10 and especially FY11.

Q: We thought the budget was good for FY2010. Does Fermilab know its budget?

A: On the whole things look good. The lab received \$20M more this year. But we have to spend \$30M more buying things for NoVA out of that \$20M, so there are some tight spots. The reorganization in the DOE OHEP has put in a new level of budgeting and each organization is learning how the new system works. This year's budget is somewhat eased by carry-over from the FY2008 supplement. We don't expect to have that next year. It is, however, a good sign that DOE has said they will propose 2011 Tevatron running to the administration.

Q: Did the proton program split into energy and intensity frontiers at DOE?

A: Yes, money now split into more pots. This is part of the new budgeting process.

C: We've known for a while that we are short of engineers at Fermilab. We tried to find outside partners to do work and also use contract/temporary engineers, but we are adding full time staff positions. We will try to hire young engineers, mostly in mechanical engineering.

Q: How do you add salary (in the form of new engineers) to the budget?

A: There is money in the budgets for projects to cover engineering needs. We are looking at long term staffing. Last week, the Director announced we are in the early stages of a survey of where scientific staff want to put their effort in the next 5 years. Currently, about 15-20% of staff work on the intensity frontier and we need to beef that up.

Q: How will the DOE split the Fermilab budget between the intensity and energy frontiers?

A: We have an initial split from DOE and we are looking now to see if we need to ask for an adjustment in the split.

C. We have high expectations for next week's workshops. (Project-X and Muon Collider)

Q: Any reaction to Bill Brinkman's (negative) comments on ILC?

A: I wasn't at the HEPAP meeting. I do know that Fermilab is not proposing the muon collider as a substitute for the ILC if the LHC tells us that the exciting physics is in the energy reach of the ILC. The ILC is a lot easier to build than a muon collider (or CLIC.) What we are doing is increasing R&D here on the muon collider so that if a multiTeV lepton collider is needed for the next steps a sensible choice can be made between, say, CLIC and muon collider.

Minutes submitted by Todd Adams and Ron Moore.

The next FNAL UEC meeting is scheduled for Dec 4, 2009.