

## **Minutes of the FNAL UEC Meeting Oct 9, 2009**

### Members attending:

Ron Moore, Chair  
Todd Adams  
Marj Corcoran (video)  
Heather Gerberich  
Karen Gibson (phone)  
Mike Hildreth  
Ashutosh Kotwal (phone)  
Heather Ray (video)  
Mayly Sanchez (phone)  
Dave Schmitz  
Jon Urheim (phone)  
William Wester

### **New Items**

Subcommittee membership was presented.

Government Relations: Heather Ray (chair), Todd Adams, Marj Corcoran, Karen Gibson, Mike Hildreth, Ashutosh Kotwal, Ron Moore (ex-officio), Jon Urheim, William Wester

Local Government: Dave Schmitz (chair), Marj Corcoran, Ron Moore (ex-officio), Heather Ray, Mayly Sanchez

Non-U.S. Users: Heather Gerberich (chair), Ron Moore (ex-officio), Mayly Sanchez, Jon Urheim

Outreach: Tricia Vahle (chair), Todd Adams, Mike Hildreth, Ron Moore (ex-officio), Dave Schmitz

Quality of Life: William Wester (chair), Marj Corcoran, Heather Gerberich, Ron Moore (ex-officio)

Users' Meeting: Mike Hildreth (chair), Todd Adams, Ashutosh Kotwal, Ron Moore (ex-officio), Mayly Sanchez, Jon Urheim, Tricia Vahle, William Wester

Committees are posted on the UEC website.

The 2010 Fermilab Users' Meeting will be held on June 2-3, 2010.

Ashutosh contacted the Fermilab Indian Association about having an Indian restaurant cater the dinner at the Users' Meeting. They were enthusiastic about it and provided a list of restaurants which has been forwarded to the Users' Office. We may be able to get a lower rate from personal contact with the owners.

There is a call for speaker suggestions for the Users' Meeting public lecture. A few names have been suggested already. The price will be \$7 this year (as opposed to \$5 previously).

There was discussion of the closing of the east gate during late night hours starting in November. There was concern that this was a first step toward closing the gate permanently. The committee feels strongly that this should not lead to permanent closure.

Several different websites are used for UEC business - necessitated by keeping lobbying-type activities off government computers and for coordination with other Users organizations. It would be nice if we could reduce this, but it is important that FNAL should host the main page. We should try to make it easier to use the other webpages.

We will likely need a poster for the NUFO (National User Facility Organization) as they will reschedule an event in Washington.

The year-end party proposed by Young-Kee Kim will be Wednesday December 16 starting with a pot-luck dinner (everyone brings a dish) in the cafeteria from 17:00-18:30 followed by skits and other performances in the auditorium from 18:30 to no later than 20:00. The performances are expected to include the FNAL choir singing some songs. Young-Kee would like users and FNAL staff to develop and perform a short skit or two (each 5-10 minutes long). An announcement will be run in the Fermilab Today about the party and to encourage participation in the skits/performances.

### **Small Experiment Computing Support (Margaret Votava)**

As a follow-up to discussions from the last UEC meeting, Margaret Votava attended the meeting to discuss how Computing Division supports small experiments. Margaret is head of the REX (Running EXperiments department). Some of the small experiments (namely the neutrino experiments) are grouped together and supported by Lee Lueking. This is primarily for organization rather than user support. There is also a shift of people from Run 2 to neutrino experiments.

(UEC): How should small experiments get support?

(MV): Mainly through the service desk. Efforts are ongoing to improve the service desk's organization and efficiency. Also, use the MOU process to set computing needs.

(UEC): Is REX still committed to Run 2?

(MV): Yes. Primarily working to make Run 2 operations more efficient and therefore can shift some people to newer efforts.

(UEC): We're surprised to hear it is organized as Run 2 versus neutrino experiments.

(MV): Not really organized that way. We support data handling, grid, offline computing, etc.

(UEC): Is there a plan for neutrino computing to grow?

(MV): There is a neutrino computing group (with mailing list). Right now there are two computing clusters for non-grid related jobs. One is a 5-10 node cluster Minerva needed quickly. Plan is to get fnalu-like cluster up for everyone. Some Run II support people are transitioning some of their cycles to the neutrino effort starting this fiscal year. There is a neutrino computing mail list ([nucomp@fnal.gov](mailto:nucomp@fnal.gov)) to discuss neutrino computing issues.

People

are encouraged to join.

(UEC): Do new experiments join the intensity cluster?

(MV): When the fnalu replacement cluster is available, the Minerva cluster will join it. Experiments will still maintain their own resources when merged.

(UEC): The small experiments need to be informed of the plans now so that they can know how to proceed. Small experiments need end user support, how is that to be handled?

(MV): Some problems should go through the Service desk (with faster response as the goal).

(UEC): Many problems aren't handled by the service desk.

(MV): These should be included in an MOU. Experimental representatives can always contact the REX department head (Margaret Votava) to follow-up on operational issues.

(UEC): What about hiring more computing professionals?

(MV): Not hiring new people, but rather moving them around. (See above comment on the "neutrino plan".) We have an associate scientist opening already posted and will be asking for a new requisition for an additional operations-type person. Don't know if/when the latter will be approved.

(UEC): Do you have trouble retaining people?

(MV): Not really, people work here because they like it.

(UEC): We will invite Margaret back in the winter/spring to see how things are going.

### **HEP Career Data Tracking (Heather Ray)**

As a follow-up to a question about career data for graduates and post-docs raised during the Washington trip, investigations found that LBNL collects such data in a well organized manner and can provide it to us easily. (Bill Carithers is the current contact.) The question arose whether we needed Fermilab specific data and the answer was no. We should make sure DOE and others in Washington are aware of the data.

### **The View from Washington (Carol McGuire on the phone)**

Carol gave a brief explanation of the role of herself and Lewis-Burke and Assoc. as the interface between the FRA and Washington. She then described the status of the appropriations bills: DOE will be in one of the first bills, it has completed conference report, House has passed it, and the Senate will soon. DOE will get budget early. Currently DOE is operating under a continuing resolution at 2009 levels. The Office of Science did better this year: HEP got \$809M which is a small reduction from the President's request. Overall funding in accelerators is reduced, but \$14.5M above 2009 - very good increase. 2% increase overall.

Pier Oddone was in DC recently and testified to a House subcommittee about the possibility of doing authorization bill for Office of Science specifically. Oddone was well received. Asked what is country getting for \$1.3B invested in HEP and nuclear, Oddone gave good answer: training, practical applications. The House Science and Technology subcommittee is looking at things.

(UEC): Is this a good thing?

(CM): It is a double edged sword. It can mean more meddling from Congress, but can give a higher profile to the Office of Science. It depends on how prescriptive they want to be.

(UEC): Did the LHC upgrade get cut specifically?

(CM): Not in the language, but in the deliberations it was an issue.

(UEC): How does Congress view (DOE Secretary) Steven Chu, is reduction in technology hubs a blow to him?

(CM): Chu is highly respected, but Congress felt enough had been provided along those lines.

(UEC): How long will we have a continuing resolution?

(CM): Office of Science should be passed in a few weeks. Other bills passed by mid-Nov.

(UEC): How does NSF funding look?

(CM): Under debate in House, but looks close to President's request.

(UEC): How does DC view stimulus package money tracking?

(CM): Unemployment is not changing. DC will continue to provide pressure about reporting requirements.

(UEC): Any advice about when to schedule the DC trip?

(CM): You can go back to early to mid-March. Anytime late Feb to mid-March is OK.

### **Chat with Steve Holmes (Fermilab Directorate)**

Steve reported on Operations: the collider came back several weeks ago after last really long shutdown. The startup was smooth. There is a goal of  $2.4 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  this year. If we run through FY2011, one more (short ~6 weeks?) shutdown will be needed. FY2011 running would require \$25M. Antineutrinos are being provided to NuMI. We continue to provide beam to miniBooNE. Construction of foundation of buildings for NoVA was completed during the 2009 shutdown.

Projects: NoVA issues identified in CD-3b review have been resolved. A presentation to Kovar and ESAB is planned in Oct. Expectation is approval by end of month. microBooNE got CD-0 approval last week. LBNE and mu2e CD-0 are in process, expected later this fall. DECam is moving forward.

(UEC): Does LBNE include beamline and experiment?

(SH): Yes.

(UEC): What detector?

(SH): Not decided, but working model is water Cherenkov. mu2e is moving in parallel with LBNE. Both expected to have CD-0 later this fall. Kovar wants both to be ready for CD-1 in a year. Project X: other experiments need minor modifications to accelerator - get CD-0 first. Project X needs more accelerator changes and comes with CD-0 later to add 3-10x power to other experiments. Most hopeful thing is Kovar wants to change name of Project X to get approval.

(UEC): Does LBNE/mu2e assume 700kW in approval?

(SH): Yes, but people know 2MW is better.

Budget: We are under a continuing resolution now. The budget will be passed and hopefully we get a budget in Nov. (The President had since signed the budget bill.) We got a bunch of money through ARRA (all of it is here except \$10M for refrigeration system). The bad economy is helping because NoVA building is \$10M under budget.

(UEC): What about young scientist awards for Fermilab employees?

(SH): 18 were submitted from FNAL. We hope for 1-3 awards.

Muon collider: Oddone received letter from Kovar asking for strengthened and more managed muon program with Fermilab as host lab. We are trying to organize a meeting with the collaboration. We already have a 5 year proposal for muon R&D.

(UEC): What about the muon collider workshop in November?

(SH): There are a lot of workshops coming up: next week is a high intensity workshop at Fermilab (Project X), the following week is the Accelerators for America's Future Symposium in Washington, a Project X workshop Nov. 9-10 at Fermilab will look at 2nd possible configuration, a muon collider workshop Nov 10-12 will partially overlap, the PAC (Program Advisory Committee) comes Nov 12-14, and the next week the AAC (Accelerator Advisory Committee) comes.

Minutes submitted by Todd Adams and Ron Moore.

The next FNAL UEC meeting is scheduled for Nov 6, 2009.