

Minutes of the Apr 9, 2010 UEC Meeting

Attendees:

Todd Adams (video), Marj Corcoran (video), Ashutosh Kotwal (video), Ron Moore, Mayly Sanchez, Dave Schmitz, Jon Urheim, William Wester (minutes)
GSA representative: Carley Kopecky

Discussion with the Directorate (first Young-Kee Kim, then Pier Oddone)

Young-Kee

The URA Visiting Scholar Awards have been awarded. Users are encouraged to consider applying for the next round. Accelerator-based and engineering projects are also eligible. More information can be found: www.fnal.gov/pub/forphysicists/fellowships/ura_visiting_scholars

It is true that in addition to physicists and the scientific staff, the directorate has had periodic meetings with the engineering staff (and soon computer professionals).

There was a recent STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) career night and will be a National Lab Day. (Details can be found in the [April 15 Fermilab Today](#).)

There are some new emphasis and presidential directives on being as environmentally sound as possible. There are goals for reducing driving on site and other measures (video meetings instead of travel, for instance).

Energy research is a point of emphasis with Steven Chu (Secretary of Energy) and Steven Koonin (Under Secretary for Science) at DOE who also emphasizes applied research. The current leadership in DOE is good in terms of the scientific backgrounds of the leadership, but that also means they are more involved. Fermilab continues to be a high energy physics laboratory. It is not excluded that Fermilab might contribute otherwise to DOE's activities but generally it would require unique capabilities at Fermilab. For instance, there are some nuclear physics research possibilities within the scope of Project X which are not yet well-defined. The point of emphasis is that Fermilab is expected to continue to have high energy physics the majority of the work here.

Pier

Since the mid-1990s, high energy physics has been a little down or flat in funding while the rest of the Office of Science is up. This reflected a rebalancing towards "end use inspired basic research". At some point hopefully balance will have been reached and particle physics can prosper along with other sciences.

There are continuing discussions with India in collaborating with Project X activities.

The LHC has certainly sparked interest in particle physics and has resulted in numerous publicity activities all over the world, including Fermilab.

The 2011 budget is being worked on after the President's request. There are some tensions even though the President's request was up 2.2% for high energy physics. For example, the Army Corps of Engineers had a sizable cut in funding and those projects are important for many states represented by people on the Energy and Water Appropriations Committees that fund high energy physics.

The DUSEL situation is also being worked on after there have been some shortfalls in NSF funding for FY11. This is work in progress and I am optimistic the problem can be solved. There has been some planning and negotiating on the partitioning between NSF and DOE funding for the facility and the large experiments.

In response to specific questions from the UEC committee:

Having one less PAC meeting seems good in terms of what is being asked of the committee. If there are issues that require attention between meetings, those can be handled by email. There is a similar idea of reducing the FRA board meetings from three times to two times per year as another way of being more efficient with those meetings.

A replacement for Steve Holmes as the Associate Director for Accelerators is being worked on. As far as the Computing Division, Vicky White has been appointed as Assoc. Director for Computing and CIO and will continue to oversee the Computing Division. There will be some reorganization of the area under the ALD for Research now that computing reports to the ALD for Computing Science and Technology.

A new organization (MAP) combines the activities of the Muon Collider Collaboration and the FNAL Muon Task Force. There are dates for delivering certain designs that are relevant for muon collider and neutrino factory ideas. A 2014 conceptual design for a neutrino factory is being discussed as this will be able to incorporate physics results on theta-13.

New results can certainly be shown at the Users' meeting in keeping with the usual policy that Fermilab results should first be shown at Fermilab. It is noted that some new neutrino results might be ready before Neutrino 2010 which is in mid-June.

The laboratory receives its money in "budget and reporting" categories (B&Rs). This funding structure is likely to be at Fermilab for the foreseeable future. While having 40+ budget categories can create some burdens, it is much more of an issue at the multipurpose laboratories. Dennis Kovar (DOE Assoc. Director of Science for High Energy Physics) generally leads by empowering the various program managers responsible for the various B&Rs. There is also a goal of having the Lab Directors have some flexibility in adjusting the program.

The View from Washington (Carole McGuire):

The time schedule for working on the appropriations bills has been set back a couple weeks from normal due to the debate on health care reform. It is expected that there may be a budget resolution in both houses to get the spending bills to be drafted. However, it is likely that in this election year, that there will be a continuing resolution until after the elections. There are some partisan differences regarding earmarks and the nature of the President's proclamation that there will be a freeze on certain areas of discretionary spending.

For high energy physics, the hope is that President's request of a 2.2% increase will turn into law. Within the House, "Dear Colleague" letters in support of the DOE Office of Science and a separate NSF letter are being circulated. Similar letters for the Senate are in the works.

Chairman Gordon (House Science and Technology Committee) wants to take the reauthorization of the America Competes Act to the House floor by Memorial Day. The DOE Office of Science Reauthorization bill should have the full committee mark-up by the end of April. The NSF reauthorization will follow. The current language is being worked upon to

make sure HEP and nuclear physics are specifically mentioned along with other Office of Science programs.

It is true that the President's budget has a reduction of more than \$500M for the Army Corps of Engineers that the Energy & Water Appropriations subcommittees will have to address.

Status of mu2e Project (Doug Glenzinski):

Doug gave a very nice presentation to the committee on the mu2e project that will attempt to look for the coherent process of muon to electron conversion .

Subcommittee Reports

Users' Meeting (Ron for Mike Hildreth): Plans are for an Indian Banquet on Wednesday evening. Steven Chu is expected to give the public lecture. Work continues on the poster, the Indico online registration, advertisement, outreach, and the agenda.

GSA (Carley Kopecky): Work continues for the poster session for the Users' Meeting and the BBQ the day before. Some ideas are sought on how to raise interest for New Perspectives – the graduate student meeting that is held prior to the Users' Meeting.

Quality of Life (William Wester): The pool operations are currently with procurement who are writing up the contracts. The survey for Chez Leon in Fermilab Today is still expected soon.

Minutes submitted by William Wester and Ron Moore.
The next FNAL UEC meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2010.