



Minutes of the Fermilab UEC Meeting on December 3, 2010

Attending:

Todd Adams, Michael Cooke, Marj Corcoran (remote), Heather Gerberich, Dick Gustafson, Jonathan Lewis (remote), Ron Moore, Manfred Paulini (remote), Brian Rebel, Mayly Sanchez, Dave Schmitz, William Wester, Lisa Whitehead

GSA Officers: Joe Grange, Zeynep Isvan, Tim Linden, Joel Mousseau, Ritoban Basu Thakur

Guests:

Michael Crisler

Report from the Chair – Todd Adams

Dates for the winter 2011 UEC meetings: Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 4, and Apr. 8. A date in May still needs to be selected.

A contest is on-going for the best “Project X elevator speech” ... an idea by Young-Kee to have people come up with a 60 second description of various aspects of Project X. See http://www.fnal.gov/pub/today/archive_2010/today10-11-23.html. Deadline for entry is Dec. 10.

Friday Dec 17 will be this year’s labwide potluck and holiday party. An excellent program of entertain has been assembled. Joe Lykken will be the MC and the winner of the elevator speech will be announced. Volunteers are needed to help organize the food before and after dinner.

Visit with Mike Crisler (COUPP)

Mike Crisler described the COUPP (Chicagoland Observatory for Underground Particle Physics) experiment – a direct detection of dark matter experiment utilizing a bubble chamber. The collaboration includes Fermilab, the University of Chicago, and Indiana University – South Bend. A 4kg prototype test chamber ran underground between Aug. and Dec. 2009 in the MINOS Near Detector Hall. The vessel housed superheated CF₃I in which bubbles would be expected to form if weakly interacting mass particles (WIMPs) entered. The properties of the fluid can be tuned to have a threshold that rejects electromagnetic interactions. Neutron-like and alpha-like events can be discriminated by an acoustic sensor that records during the bubble formation. A paper has been accepted for publication in PRL showing interesting limits in the spin-dependent cross-section versus WIMP mass parameter space. The 4kg detector has now been moved to a deep underground facility at SNOLAB. Work continues on development of a 60kg chamber that has taken some initial data but some problems have been seen and are being worked on.

Chat with Fermilab Directorate

(due to an emergency neither Director Oddone nor Deputy Director Kim was able to attend as scheduled.)

View from Washington - Carole McGuire (Lewis-Burke Associates)

Washington is a bit uncertain with budgeting for FY2011. The continuing resolution (CR) has been extended until Dec 18. There are three likely options: 1) an omnibus bill \$26B below the President's request, 2) a CR that lasts the full fiscal year, or 3) extending until Feb. or Mar. after the new Congress is seated. Besides the appropriations, Congress is also working on extending the tax cuts and the START treaty. It is noted that under a CR, there are no new starts although projects like LBNE and mu2e can still proceed under R&D funding. The first items likely to be cut in any rescission would be unspent stimulus money. In summary, it is a wait and see situation to find out what funding materializes for DOE, the Office of Science, and High Energy Physics in particular.

Subcommittee Reports

Report from the GSA

The GSA has made progress in producing a Wiki-formatted "Guide to Life at Fermilab" update. It is not quite ready for release, but will be soon. The GSA is holding a pub night outing and thinking about how they can increase graduate student participation at and around the User's Meeting.

Non-US Users - Heather Gerberich

There will be a number of presentations targeting non-US Users both currently scheduled and possibly arranged for the future. These include:

Dec 8th: "If the Tevatron run is extended, how will your stay be extended?" (and general issues related to visa extensions)

Possible future Presentations:

U.S. Taxes for non-U.S. citizens who are temporarily in the U.S. (Jan 2011)

Overview of the U.S Permanent Residence process (Feb 2011)

Immigration planning for non-U.S. citizens studying or planning to study in the U.S. (Feb 2011)

Self-sponsored Petitions for U.S. Permanent Residence (NIW & EB1) (March 2011)

Outreach – Manfred Paulini

Some discussions have taken place with science teachers and a Superintendent of a school district to get their feedback on science outreach.

Quality of Life – Michael Cooke

A meeting took place with representatives of two groups at Fermilab that provide services for quality of life. The Day Care facility was represented and reported that they are generally nearly full with students and with kids registering for summer camp. The Day Care has some flexibility and users with special work-related circumstances can generally be accommodated (short term stays, day care during holidays for which the lab is still open, etc.). Flexibility has been added to the Summer Camp scheduling to allow for individual weeklong sessions (previous was 3 weeks). Costs and fees are such that the Day Care/Day Camp should come close to breaking even and have a cost that is comparable to what is available in the local areas surrounding Fermilab. There may be some state programs available to help those who need help obtain some financial support. Also, the Committee heard from NALWO – an organization from the early National Accelerator Laboratory Days. This group has occasional events and activities – field trips and tea with Barbara Oddone. The group supports a playgroup and English lessons. It is noted that there is significant participation by men and families and everyone is invited to participate in activities that might appeal to them.

Users’ Meeting – William Wester

The date of the 44th Annual Users’ Meeting has been set for Wed June 1 and Thur June 2. Three items to work on before the end of the year include inviting a public speaker, inviting other public officials, and working towards the meeting’s banquet.

Government Relations – Dave Schmitz and Marj Corcoran

The dates for the DC trip are still being worked on, taking into account when Congress is in session, when our message is likely to have the best impact, and the Cherry Blossom festival. Late March or early April has been suggested. Work has started on an internal Wiki page for communication and a 1-pager document that will help guide meeting discussions in DC.

Other Business

Dennis Kovar has recently announced his retirement by the end of the year. It is thought that a letter of thanks for his service should be sent to him on behalf of the UEC.

Also, there was positive reception to the UEC to hold occasional “coffees” that will be announced to provide an avenue for users at Fermilab to interact with members of the Committee.

Next UEC meeting: Jan. 14, 2011

Secretary: William Wester