

## **Minutes of the Jan 8, 2010 UEC Meeting**

**Present:** Todd Adams, Karen Gibson (by phone), Ashutosh Kotwal, Ron Moore, Dave Schmitz, Heather Ray (by video), Jon Urheim (by video), Tricia Vahle (by phone), William Wester (minutes)

GSA representatives: Carley Kopecky, Sarah Lockwitz, and Michelle Prewitt

### **Ron Moore:**

A Letter has been written to the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and signed by willing UEC Executive committee membership in support of Japanese funding for science. The context was potential funding cuts. The UEC letter highlighted the large areas of Japanese involvement in the Fermilab program. A return letter expressing gratitude has been received along with the good news that funding at current levels has been restored. Ashutosh will compose a similar letter in support of UK funding in response to a recent announcement of budgetary cuts and a withdrawal from several scientific initiatives.

Ron reports that the lab-wide holiday party seemed to have gone very well. Approximately 400 people attended. The potluck food, which featured the diversity of the Fermilab community, was enjoyed. The entertainment, which featured local Fermilab talent engaged in skits and other performances, was similarly enjoyed.

### **Chat with Greg Bock (Associate Lab Director):**

A summary of what is going on includes a report that Pier and Young-Kee are currently in Washington having discussions with Denis Kovar on the FY10 budget and having discussions with Bill Brinkman on longer term plans for the lab. There was a recent Energy System Acquisition Advisory Board (ESAAB) meeting on the Large Baseline Neutrino Experiment (LBNE) which is a requisite prior to a mission need critical decision, CD-0. In fact, the LBNE has now received CD-0 (see Fermilab Today Jan 12). Also, there is a report that the accelerator and experiments are running well now. A recent CDMS result has been well received. Currently, Fermilab is hosting a CMS school dedicated towards training collaborators to look at the first collision data.

Q: How is the NOvA construction progressing?

A: It is going well. Here at Fermilab the design effort on the beam is growing according to plan. Construction on the temporary building that will house the testing of the near detector has begun. Work continues on the detector construction at several university locations. Construction of the detector Hall at Ash River continues. There have been some problems with excavation, but they are of the types of minor problems to be expected and solved. There will be a DOE review of NOvA in late January.

Also, Minerva is nearing end of its construction and should be ready in March for full data taking!

Q: What are the 2010 budget issues?

A: Over the last year, DOE and the lab have been working together to plan for future budget years in each of the several separate research program funding categories (such as non-accelerator physics research, intensity frontier research, theoretical physics, etc.). This year Fermilab identified technical points of contact for these programs, and they have been working hard along with the corresponding program managers in DOE to plan for future budgets.

Q: Could you elaborate more on the budget?

A: 2010 should be OK, but 2011 and 2012 could be a challenge given the large U.S. national deficit. In February, the laboratory will present its annual budget request to the office of High Energy Physics for those years in a meeting. Included in that request will be funding needed for design of three new intensity frontier construction projects that have received CD0 over the last few months—MicroBooNE, Mu2e, and (just recently) LBNE.

Q: Is the g-2 experiment still a candidate for a future Fermilab project?

A: The new g-2 experiment was looked at favorably by the Physics Advisory Committee (PAC) as was a charged kaon experiment proposal. Neither of these experiments are part of the current planned program given current funding. The director is working with the collaborations as they explore possible ways forward.

Q: What did the PAC say about particle astrophysics projects and where do they stand?

A: Nearly all projects which were presented were well-aligned with present particle astrophysics scientific assessment group, PASAG. This included presentations by the COUPP direct dark matter detection experiment and ideas for R&D for a large scale liquid argon experiment. The proposal to investigate the possibility of 'holographic noise' was also discussed. An expanded collaboration updated their plans and answered previous questions from the PAC. For this project, the Director is looking for theoretical outside advice. The PAC was impressed with local effort on QUIET – which is timely as the NSF is considering QUIET II. The CDMS dark matter experiment is in process of growing from 4kg to 15kg - its latest results have the collaboration thinking about lower background techniques.

The PAC was intrigued by the the SciNOVA Expression of Interest and suggested the proponents clarify some points.

Q: How did the survey of Fermilab scientists turn out?

A: The Directorate was very pleased that the survey which showed the Fermilab scientific staff was inclined to populate the 3 frontiers at the levels which are more or less in agreement with the current laboratory plans. In particular, there appear to be a sizable number of scientists currently working on the energy frontier who plan to be working on new intensity frontier initiatives.

Comment: The third community task force consisting of 26 people from the community will be seated (see Fermilab Today Jan 12). Previous such committees have been beneficial to Fermilab in a number of ways. Selecting the final committee from an impressive pool of approximately 100(!) highly qualified applicants was difficult.

Q: Can you comment on UK science funding.

A: John Womersley was recently at Fermilab. Clearly, the UK is facing some tough times, and they are planning cuts in various areas if necessary. Much of the recent announcement is not a total surprise. The UK has been following a plan for a gradual reduction in the Tevatron for some time. Some reductions in support for MINOS are expected as well. Of note however, Jenny Thomas of University College London has been recently elected MINOS co-spokesperson. This is a very good development, and we are working together to make sure MINOS is not severely impacted.

Q: When is construction on WH10 going to be finished?

A: There is construction proceeding on WH10W, along with some work on the 9th and 12th floors, to re-group neutrino and mu2e projects. The LBNE project office will be on the 12th floor. Young-Kee is leading a planning effort that includes for longer term space issues.

Q: Is there still plans for Fermilab participation on ATLAS?

A: Yes, a small ATLAS group is still planned. The total laboratory scientific staff is not expected to grow substantially going forward. There is an ATLAS office on 10th floor which primarily serves Tevatron scientists who also happen to be on ATLAS.

Q: Could you provide an update of mechanical engineering resources?

A: The demand for additional mechanical engineering is being met using three approaches: 1) Fermilab is hiring (there are about 6 openings right now), 2) using resources supplied by collaborative partners, 3) contract and temporary engineers have also been hired. There are some attempts in getting new folks who can learn things like legacy accelerator issues.

**Report from Washington by Carole McGuire and Bridget Glynn (and also Garrett Sato, a new person) of Lewis Burke Associates:**

A brief report is that not much going on at the moment. Congress will soon reconvene and legislative business will start on Jan 20. Health care reform is the top issue. Of note, an authorization for an increase in the public debt limit expires in February. Jobs - the House passed a bill and it's unlikely that funding of science this time will appear through a jobs bill. Science should still benefit even though much of the bill is for infrastructure and for items such as passage of an extension of health/unemployment benefits. It is hoped that the State of Union address will contain some language in support of science.

Feb 1 is expected (not guaranteed) to be the release date for the 2011 budget. There are "significant concerns" given the Federal deficit levels, and the fact that there has been stimulus spending on science. It is expected that even if science is a priority (which is likely), any increase would be close to inflation and not more. There are other DOE priorities such as renewable energy (the smart grid). Nuclear and fossil energies might be reduced. There are five energy hubs previously proposed last year that might appear this year. Workforce development initiative might be requested. Overall, it is expected DOE might be at the same level of funding this year. The Office of Science might increase like inflation. HEP may or may not scale as the overall Office of Science. The UEC visit to DC is thus important to keep the message strong that high energy physics is a priority. Since it's an election year, earmarks might also strain other allocation of funds. It is also noted that DOE is pretty well staffed including HEP.

Q: What happens if state of union gets moved to our visit?

A: Unlikely and it's one evening.

Q: Could you elaborate more on FY11 concerns?

A: Recovery funding is available through the end of 2010. Concern is that base funding will be like falling off a cliff when the stimulus funding is over.

Q: There have been retirement announcements in House/Senate. Who might take over committee chairs?

A: Rep. Bart Gordon (D-TN) has announced his retirement next year from the chair of the House committee on Science and Technology. He will continue to focus on the NSF and the America Competes authorization bills. It is not known who might come behind him. Possibilities include Illinois representatives Jerry Costello (D-IL) or Dan Lipinski (D-IL).

Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND) is on the senate appropriations committee for science funding (Energy and Water Development subcommittee). Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) has expressed interest in being but might have a focus on water (a hurricane perspective).

Q: How is success by measured by efforts directed towards HEP funding?

A: It's a complicated question. Keep in mind that the priorities include "Clean Energy Economy" and "Climate Change" and HEP is not this. The UEC visits are important to make sure HEP is given appropriate priority. Appropriators are very much aware of mortgages - i.e. big projects which involve future funding as well as short term funding. The goal is better stated as keeping Fermilab a forefront facility doing great science.

We are well placed to make the case for HEP. A unified voice on the benefits on HEP is important. We should mention not only practical spin-offs, but also benefits for education of a future workforce, along with the science that we do.

Q: Have you heard about the recent CDMS results?

A: Fermilab Today is a primary source and goes to people on the hill. Things that resonate are the bigger picture on how Fermilab is involved with "pushing forefronts".

Q: On the one pager which is being prepared, SLAC suggests astrophysics play a larger role. What do you think?

A: There is no real strong feeling and the entire field (3 frontiers) needs to be supported. Keep the eye on the ball and what is really needed for FY2011. Don't emphasize one frontier over another. Dark Matter and Dark Energy aren't necessarily associated with astronomy but are associated with part of the HEP program.

Q: Can you comment on the energy frontier moving to Europe?

A: It's fair to say the big machine is in Europe. HEP is international in its nature. Fermilab is moving towards building a best-in-the-world neutrino facility. New and complimentary facilities exist world-wide. HEP is the poster child of international cooperation.

#### **Barb Book, User's Office:**

Barb discussed some details for the DC trip for attendees such as hotel reservations.

#### **DC Trip Committee (Heather Ray):**

Heather also discussed some details on the planning for the DC trip. The list of attendees from Fermilab is known and consists of UEC and GSA members along with several others who have experience with going on the trip in the past. A total of 18 from Fermilab and 17 from the SLAC and CERN Users groups gives a grand total of approximately 35 people attending. Most will travel to DC on Tuesday Feb 23 with most appointments on Wednesday and Thursday. A number of subtasks have been assigned including scheduling meetings with Congressional staffers especially those on key committees/subcommittees. The status and proposed contents of the folder and one pager were discussed. On Saturday Feb 6, there will be a training session for those attending.

#### **Quality of Life (William Wester):**

The QoL subcommittee has followed up on previous areas of focus. The committee been asked to make comments on a draft survey that Chez Leon plans to conduct in Fermilab Today. The FermiLink mentoring program continues. Next areas of focus includes recreation including the pool opening and helping to determine if a request by NALWO to adjust slightly the hours can be honored. The committee also plans discussions with GSA representatives to see if there are common QoL issues with the graduate students.

#### **Local visits (Dave Schmitz):**

An email and link to web site was distributed to the UEC. There are details about upcoming good times to visit local Congressional offices as many of the members will be in their local offices.

**Outreach (Tricia Vahle):**

A design of a Fermilab outreach poster was discussed with Judy Jackson of Public Affairs. Included in the discussion was the possibility of having a display at O'Hare airport similar to a CERN display at the Geneva airport. This was not met with great enthusiasm as it was thought that would be possibly expensive and require maintenance etc. However, the idea will be explored a bit further.

**International (Heather Gerberich, by email):**

Under development is a scheduler for the Visa office to help facilitate appointments.

Amanda will have slides prepared for various collaboration meetings on what services the Visa office offers international users. A presentation (lunchtime requested by CDF/D0) on immigration issues is also being developed.

**Users Meeting (Mike Hildreth, by email):**

A meeting was held with Joe Morgan in procurement department regarding the bid package for restaurants for catering. A number of items associated with the meeting have been discussed with the Directorate.

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Minutes submitted by William Wester and Ron Moore.  
The next FNAL UEC meeting is scheduled for Feb 5, 2010.