

Minutes of the March 5, 2010 UEC Meeting

Attendees: Ron Moore, Ashutosh Kotwal, William Wester, Dave Schmitz, Mayly Sanchez, Marjorie Corcoran, Heather Gerberich, Carley Kopecky (GSA), Heather Ray (phone), Jon Urheim (phone), Trisha Vahle (phone), Mike Hildreth (video), Todd Adams (video).

Discussion with the Directorate (Pier Oddone):

Regarding the proposed 2011 budget, running the Tevatron in 2011 comes at a cost to other FNAL programs as we likely won't receive the full incremental increase desired for Tevatron operation. The LHC plan to run at 7 TeV center-of-mass for 1 fb^{-1} through 2011 has prompted discussion on extending Tevatron collider operation, but the plan is still to terminate Run 2 at end FY11. Health care reform is dominating in Washington DC, so expect slow progress on FY11 appropriations. FNAL is working to establish collaborations with Indian labs on Project X activities. The plan to transition lab personnel from Run 2 to Intensity Frontier activities are still being developed; need careful balance to avoid gaps as new projects progress on DOE critical decision path. LBNE aiming for CD-1 review late in 2010. DOE Secretary Steven Chu has agreed to be the speaker at the Public Lecture held in conjunction with the Users' Meeting. (*Ed. note - tickets will not be available until various logistical issues are clarified.*)

Discussion of DC Trip Experience (All, including UEC affiliates on DC trip: Breese Quinn, Kevin Pitts, Tom Handler, Herman White, Rob Forrest):

Overall, the Congressional visits were very positive regarding their support for basic science R&D, science education, etc., despite the concern over budget deficits. Our main messages were to support the President's FY11 budget requests for both the DOE Office of Science and the NSF, and to support the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act. In total, we had 34 people making visits - 17 FNAL UEC, 9 SLUO (SLAC Users Org), 8 USLUO (US LHC Users Org). We visited over 180 Congressional offices (typically 2 of us per office). We also held meetings (with representatives from all 3 users organizations) with Steve Fetter & Steve Merkowitz (OMB), Steve Koonin (DOE), Marv Goldberg & Moishe Pripstein (NSF), Dennis Kovar (DOE), J.D. Kundu (OSTP).

We also discussed ideas on improving the trip, including: making the primary assignments for congressional visits sooner so that we can identify/target specific needs; involving DPF to get additional representation beyond the users' groups; getting more university and accelerator folks to join the trip.

The View from Washington (Carole McGuire):

Appropriations committee work is roughly on schedule, but will likely pick up in May after health care reform will have been completed. Secretary Chu has met with Appropriations Committees regarding the FY11 budget. "Dear Colleague" letters for supporting DOE Office and Science and NSF are being drafted by House/Senate leadership. (The House letters have since been circulated.) Bill Brinkman (DOE Office of Science) has spoken out in support of HEP as well as the DOE Early Career Grants and Graduate Fellowship programs

Update on Computing Division Service & Support (Margaret Votava):

Eileen Berman has been coordinating the Service Desk. Automated routing of tickets has helped reduce the time to assign appropriate experts to problems. Most, especially for critical systems, are now assigned within 1-2 hours. Service Desk still supports phone and email requests, but response will be slower than the web-based submission form. The

required "services account" for submitting requests via the web requires a separate password since it is not interfaced to kerberos - eventually more services will be accessible via the service account.

The monthly NuComp meetings, open to all users, have been going well - good attendance and communication. A bulk order of 90 TB of disk for neutrino experiments (140 TB eventually desired) delivery expected within several weeks.

Recent electrical power failures at FCC (Feynman Computing Center) are related to feeder and breaker limitations. Some shuffling of computers to GCC (Grid Computing Center) has lessened the load on FCC. (Servers mainly in FCC, worker nodes mainly in GCC.) The GCC UPS back-up systems are intended only to shutdown computers gracefully, not keep them operational for extended power outages. The new computing center on FCC 3rd floor will be powered by a new, independent feeder distribution.

Subcommittee Reports

Users' Meeting (Mike Hildreth): Now that the DC Trip is complete, we will be starting regular meetings of the Users' Meeting subcommittee to push on the planning effort. Catering for the dinner is still held up in procurement. In addition to DOE Secretary Steven Chu being the Public Lecture speaker, DOE Under Secretary Steve Koonin is also scheduled to speak at the Users' Meeting.

International (Heather Gerberich): The immigration law presentation on March 1 was well-attended - over 70 people in the audience. The format will be adjusted for next year - use slides, hand-outs that are easier to follow.

Quality of Life (William Wester): We are still waiting for Business Services to release a survey on Chez Leon and other dining services - expected soon. After some concern about duplication of effort, it was learned that the lab ES&H and Recreation Office do coordinate their efforts on the various "wellness" programs offered at Fermilab. The Recreation Office is considering how to boost participation in such programs and other events.

Minutes submitted by Ron Moore.

The next FNAL UEC meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2010.