



Minutes of the Fermilab UEC Meeting on November 5, 2010

Attending:

Todd Adams
Michael Cooke
Marj Corcoran (phone)
Heather Gerberich
Joe Grange (GSA)
Dick Gustafson
Zeynep Isvan (GSA)
Jonathan Lewis
Ron Moore
Joel Mousseau (GSA)
Manfred Paulini
Brian Rebel
Mayly Sanchez (phone)
Dave Schmitz
Ritoban Basu Thakur (GSA)
William Wester
Lisa Whitehead (phone)

Guests:

Young-Kee Kim
Mel Shochet

Report from the Chair - Todd Adams

There is now a UEC agenda page on the Fermilab Indico system where presentations can be posted (<http://indico.fnal.gov/categoryDisplay.py?categId=159>).

Dates for the remaining fall UEC meeting: Dec 3. Dates for the winter meetings were proposed and after feedback from members, they will be set soon.

Friday Dec 17 will be this year's labwide potluck and holiday party. Young-Kee again is calling for excellent skits to entertain all.

Meet with Chair of HEPAP - Mel Shochet

Mel is the Chair of the High Energy Physics Advisor Panel (HEPAP) to DOE. He gives the following insight into the HEPAP process.

The old process was that the laboratory Director was able to make decisions in consultation with the internal Physics Advisory Committee (PAC). There has been an evolution of DOE regulations, mandates by Congress, and the fact each of the major experiments represent a sizable fraction of the entire program. HEPAP is an advisory

panel that operates under the laws of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (i.e. meetings must be open, etc.) to provide a mechanism for the funding agencies to seek advice. Often subpanels are appointed (such as the P5 sub-committee) in which frank discussions can take place prior to producing a report for the HEPAP committee that then gives is advice to the funding agencies.

The request for extending the Tevatron run is an example of an issue that impacts the field as a whole and it is appropriate for HEPAP to be called to provide advice. As the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is in deliberations for FY2012 planning, it was important to carry out the HEPAP process in a timely manner. Fortunately, the P5 subpanel was a standing subpanel that could be called to look at the issue. As this P5 committee formulated a 10-year plan for High Energy Physics, it was appropriate that they evaluate the Tevatron extension in light of their knowledge of the overall 10-year plan. It is also noted, that it takes some time to form a subcommittee and it is fortunate that the P5 subcommittee hasn't expired – but will, by year's end.

The current DOE leadership seems to like a field making a plan and then executing it. Thus Mel is of the opinion that it is unlikely that another subcommittee such as P5 will be convened until approximately 3-5 years from now when new inputs on theta-13, dark matter technologies, and results from the LHC are known. HEPAP will still be active to give advice depending on various budget scenarios. Normally HEPAP meets quarterly and provides a summary letter to DOE/NSF addressing questions from the funding agencies, if any. While the field has evolved from multi-laboratory entities to a single High Energy Physics laboratory, HEPAP is still relevant as the field has evolved from mostly a single mission to one that includes US HEP, LHC, and particle astrophysics.

Chat with Fermilab Directorate – Young-Kee Kim

(Director Oddone was unable to attend due to PAC discussions.)

The Physics Advisory Committee, PAC, meeting is concurrent with this meeting and five proposals have been submitted and are expected to receive consideration.

There will be a November 16-17 Project-X CD-0 briefing with both physics and machine details to be presented. A reference design and cost range will be presented for the machine and the research program for each of the four beamlines will also be presented. A possible goal would be for CD-0 to be issued in January/February.

A reminder to participate in the Dec 17 Holiday Party!

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

Washington is right now all about the aftermath from the elections, which sees the House changing majority status in January. The Senate stayed Democratic, but with a narrower majority. A big issue is how the FY2011 funding bills will be resolved. It is most likely the current continuing resolution, CR, will be extended until the new Congress. There are scenarios being talked about such as rolling funding back to FY2008 levels (which would be very bad for High Energy Physics). In what is thought to be a best case, the CR will be

extended for the full year. In this scenario, under a CR, there are no new starts that are allowed and this might impact LBNE and mu2e.

The change in majority for the House means that there will be significant changes in the committees and subcommittees. The chairs of these committees will also be new and Lewis-Burke Associates will work hard to get to know the new committee members and chairs.

Doubling the funding for the Office of Science, as has been a bipartisan goal, is certainly in question. The COMPETES authorization is unlikely to be taken up until the new Congress. Tax cuts and the START treaty are a priority when Congress reconvenes.

Subcommittee Reports

Non-US Users – Heather Gerberich

There will be a Dec 8 presentation on Immigration Issues. Non-US users are invited to participate.

An attempt is being made to organize a presentation on tax related issues for non-US users. What is being done is being influenced by a survey as to what other labs do.

Outreach – Manfred Paulini

Meetings with the Office of Communications and the Education Office have taken place. Work is ongoing on an outreach web page. It was suggested that there might be a breakout session during the Users' Meeting on outreach and to help make it easier especially for smaller departments to do outreach.

Quality of Life – Michael Cooke

A meeting took place with representatives of three groups at Fermilab that provide services for quality of life. These include the accommodations office that summarized recent improvements in the Village housing including a new playground and an evolving new wireless internet infrastructure. A recent Chez Leon survey received about 400 responses to a Fermilab Today solicitation and some new ideas will be considered such as Friday dinners starting a little earlier and other similar ideas. Also represented was a representative from the Fermilab Workforce and Development Section who described the FermiLINK mentoring program and announced that it will be attempted to expand the scope of the Fermilab employee assistance program to allow for some use by Users who are not employees. Finally, the recreation office was represented and discussed new improvements to the gym and talked about some of the issues that were addressed during the previous year with the pool.

Users' Meeting – William Wester

The date of the 44th Annual Users' Meeting has been set for Wed June 1 and Thur June 2. All Users are invited to attend. Participation by graduate students will be encouraged and work will precede working with the GSA towards this goal. There are a few organizational details already accomplished and to be accomplished before the end of the year.

Government Relations – Dave Schmitz and Marj Corcoran

The subcommittee met to review the tasks that will need to be undertaken to organize the Washington trip. These include preparing the one-page summary, setting the dates for the trip, arranging meeting assignments, and choosing material for the visits. Dave, Marj, and Todd also met informally with members from the US LHC Users Organization Executive Committee during their annual meeting.

Report from the GSA

The new officers were congratulated on pulling off their first big event ... a Halloween Party on Friday Oct 29. They are now getting to work on perhaps a GSA Holiday party skit and improving the "Guide to Life" publication that will be coming out in a Wiki format.

Photo

A group photo was taken in the atrium.

Next UEC meeting: Dec. 3, 2010

Secretary: William Wester