



Minutes of the Fermilab UEC Meeting on April 27, 2012

Attending:

Todd Adams, Dick Gustafson, Sergo Jindariani, Daniel Kaplan, Jonathan Lewis, Ryan Patterson (remote), Brian Rebel, Nikos Varelas, Lisa Whitehead (remote), Bob Zwaska
GSA officers: Chris Prokop, Brian Tice

Guests:

Bruce Chrisman, Patricia McBride

News from the Chair – Daniel Kaplan

Next meeting dates: 5/11, 6/14

May 11 UEC Meeting will focus on planning for the Users' Meeting. Meeting June 14 after the Users Meeting to evaluate lessons learned etc.

Dan has been drafting letter from UEC and other HEP users organizations to Bill Brinkman emphasizing breadth of LBNE physics program. There was discussion of the intent, content, and tone of the letter.

Discussion whether to propose changing UEC constitution to extend UEC terms from two years to three. Intent would be to increase continuity of expertise on UEC, potentially enhancing effectiveness of congressional visits. Counterargument that the longer term might dissuade people from running for UEC, particularly younger persons uncertain of their career trajectories. Possibility suggested of auxiliary committee of former UEC members still interested in participating in limited ways. Discussed several possibilities how to move to three-year terms and handle the transition period. No consensus on road forward, and we will return to it.

GSA concern how relationship of GSA (potentially including postdocs, GSPA) to UEC is formalized. This relationship not mentioned in UEC mission statement nor constitution. General discussion that UEC should somehow formally recognize GS(P)A relationship as guests at UEC meetings. We will likely wait until the GSPA proposal matures.

Update on "Fermilab alumni" outcomes study effort. Hampered by data quality issues and participation problems. Discussion about collecting this information and potential privacy issues.

Fermilab Technology Transfer is maintained under Bruce Chrisman and previously Dick Carrigan. Dan asked whether we should be publicizing these accomplishments.

Users' Meeting Subcommittee Report – Lisa Whitehead

Users' Meeting agenda well in the works. All speakers invited, many have confirmed. Some juggling required to match requests. Posters being printed and registration open. GSA organizing poster session.

An issue that CMS and ATLAS have asked for separate talks on LHC Higgs, whereas we requested a single joint Higgs talk. General consensus that one talk was preferable as report of interest to Fermilab users. Pointed out that ATLAS is not a Fermilab experiment. Both ATLAS and CMS already have generic talks. Will reiterate request for combined LHC Higgs talk (a similar talk was given at APS).

A Town Hall session was generally supported. Form to be fleshed out.

News from the Directorate – Bruce Chrisman

Directorate discussions currently dominated by budget and LBNE issues. Proposed FY13 budget requires cuts for Fermilab. Out-year guidance not much better. Additionally, complications as to color of monies (e.g. PED funding for Mu2e, which can't be spent before CD-1).

In next few years, Fermilab also required to convert portion of its buildings to meet energy-efficiency requirements, which is actually quite expensive (unfunded mandate). Requirements have some pernicious details - hope that these may be changed.

Future issues on DOE laboratory management. Particularly, labs may be asked to "unbundle," whereby science would be run by universities and a corporation would manage operations. Could be acute threat to Fermilab operations model.

DOE being heavily pressured to meet goals for small-business utilization - may raise overheads. Small-business contracts may be moved from labs to DOE so that small-business utilization will appear on DOE books. Administrative complications would likely increase overheads.

Lab putting together detailed long-range plan - due in very near future but complicated by LBNE situation.

Discussed usefulness of patents or records of invention. Many Fermilab inventions over years, however many are useful only for government applications, which carry no royalties. Fermilab therefore registers many more records of invention than patents. Question raised whether resulting knowledge useful to society even if we cannot derive income directly. Would like to have a way of measuring societal impacts of these inventions as part of our case for support.

Bruce mentions IARC as initiative to increase Lab involvement with entrepreneurs and innovation: incubator for potential new accelerator applications.

Lewis-Burke report – Kaitlin Chell

A very busy week in Washington. Budget markups just finished by both House and Senate. Overall, Office of Science got slight haircut, but not significant.

House HEP markup at the request of \$777M. Senate version \$5M higher, particularly because of Sen. Durbin's efforts. Senate has \$26M for LBNE vs. House \$16M. Good news under the circumstances.

Little movement on appropriations expected before the election.

Follow-up should be made to thank all lawmakers with whom we met, and particularly Senator Durbin who took personal initiative.

The CMS Center – Patricia McBride

2011 LHC run very successful with very substantial dataset collected. 2012 run now started at 8 TeV, data coming in at greatly increased rate.

Fermilab's principal role in CMS, on which much Fermilab effort constructing and commissioning. Now responsible for operations and maintenance of various subsystems: operates control room at Fermilab, tier-1 computing center, and LHC Physics Center (LPC). LPC staff hold various leadership roles in CMS.

Also Fermilab CMS Center: line organization within Fermilab. Numerous overlaps and interfaces among CMS, LPC, and other LHC/CMS-related entities at Fermilab.

LPC acts as home for CMS collaborators seeking a collaborative environment without being resident at CERN. Comment that sometimes better to be at LPC than at CERN.

LPC operates CERN fellows program for junior and senior researchers.

Subcommittee Reports:

Users' Meeting – see above

Quality of Life – Bob Zwaska (for Mike Cooke)

Mike drafted letter requesting Fermilab support for participation in Argonne jobs fair - editing in progress.

Continuing issues regarding after-hours taxis and Zipcars.

Graduate Student Association – Chris Prokop

GSA has siting issue for New Perspectives conference. Project X Physics Study reserved large number of rooms for two weeks after Users' Meeting. Presently, New Perspectives is in CDF Big Room, but CDF wants it for collaboration meeting. Chris in contact with Steve Holmes.

Next UEC meeting: May 11, 2012 in the afternoon

Scribe: Bob Zwaska