



## Minutes of the Fermilab UEC Meeting on January 27, 2012

### Attending:

Todd Adams, Mike Cooke, Dick Gustafson, Jonathan Lewis, Daniel Kaplan, Ryan Patterson (remote), Manfred Paulini (remote), Brian Rebel, Nikos Varelas, Lisa Whitehead (remote), Bob Zwaska

GSA officers: Chris Prokop, Alexander Radovic, Brian Tice, Joseph Zennamo

### Guests:

Greg Bock, Bridget Krieger (remote), Amanda Thompson, Katie Yurkewicz

### **News from the Chair - Dan Kaplan**

Next meeting dates: 2/24 confirmed. 3/23 meeting moved to 3/30 because of DC trip. Will put up Doodle poll for future months.

DC trip dates: set for 3/20-22. Group will include Fermilab, SLUO, USLUO reps. We should solicit interest from APS DPF. Nikos is on the DPF ExCom and will ask there next week. Subset of participants will meet with DOE, NSF, et al. officers on 3/23 as well. Training workshop at Fermilab 3/10; also one at SLAC (may be more convenient for some). Clear instructions on making travel arrangements will be circulated to UEC members.

NUFO (National Users Facility Organization) also planning DC event: 3/28-29. They solicit participation from all national user facilities. 1 or 2 people from UEC should attend. Dan considering going, anyone else interested should contact him. Could also invite non-UEC person from DC region.

Dan has worked on study of Fermilab "alumni" outcomes: made spreadsheet of all PhD theses since 2000 (843 of them). Next step: ask spokespersons for status of ex-students. Goal: finish by Users Meeting, so set a first deadline for ~ a month from now. Suggestion to send email to @fnal aliases and gather information directly. Third possibility: set up a LinkedIn group - easy enough, but unsure how effective it would be.

### **Lewis-Burke Report - Bridget Krieger**

In FY12 appropriations science did relatively well - flat, or small bumps. DOE tended more actively to push applied research. DOE-HEP allocated \$791.7M, a small reduction from last year. Notably, included funding for LBNE and continuation of activities at Homestake.

Guidance for next year mixed. Generally, agencies told to deal with tightened budgets. A positive note was President's singling out of science in State of Union address. However, details won't be revealed until president's budget 2/13.

Q: What's the question for our DC trip?

A: Need more information, specifically president's budget. Planned budget release date a week beyond "mandatory" date (happens regularly).

Q about likelihood and effect of possible sequestration. Previously told it would be relatively minor.

A: Situation has not changed, but not entirely clear. Effect will be demonstrated through budget cycle. Suspects president's budget being formulated with sequestration at least in mind.

Q: How meaningful is president's budget considering past history?

A: Actual impact likely small - opposition will oppose president's wishes. Most likely to have a CR considering the election.

Q: Possibility of budget before the election?

A: Has been discussed, but seems unlikely - has not happened in recent history. But a slim chance that lawmakers will want to be able to "say they've done something" by election time.

Lawmakers interested in research, particularly in understanding what is actually going on. They want to be more responsive in this environment.

### **Update from Office of Communications - Katie Yurkewicz**

Lead staffer for Congressman Hultgren visits Fermilab today to talk to his science advisory group - Fermilab participation likely minimal.

First item: brochure for DC trip/APS. Text well in hand, only minor changes from last year. New pictures received from outside groups. Brochure in the works - the "ask" will be prominent. Will be multiple versions - DC version and DPF version. DPF one will omit the "ask" and refer to HEP as Particle Physics.

Discussion of how late the "ask" can be finalized, given production lead times. We will formulate the "ask" after receiving the president's budget and conferring with the other user groups and Lewis-Burke Associates. Last year's text was fairly lengthy.

We do have neutrino bookmarks for giveaways. However, out of rulers. She'll look into turnaround time for an order. Typical order 10k rulers for \$26k. Should impress upon Bruce the need for rulers.

Katie has lost two staff-persons. Has extended an intern to fill the gap. Looking to hire internal communications person and writer/editor. Communication Office preparing new version of photo book.

Final item: Tevatron Symposium. Still working on definition - has changed substantially over time. Want it interesting to users, while not too technical. Some VIPs being invited. Will be emphasis on getting excellent speakers. Users may be asked to produce posters for a reception

to be held that evening - issue whether would conflict (or possibly mesh) with graduate student symposium posters. Need for tours not yet determined - likely for VIPs. One scenario: tours in AM, plenaries in PM, reception in evening. Suggestion that VIPs take tours in AM while we have technical talks. Might attract users to come a day early, but then need to avoid redundancy with next two days' Users' Meeting. Suggestion for closer integration between Symposium and Users' Meeting committees. Stefan Soldner-Rembold and Jacobo Konigsberg chair the Symposium Committee.

### **News from the Directorate – Greg Bock**

Present run officially extended to 4/30 to accommodate data-taking by MINERvA, MINOS, SeaQuest and others - meshes well with plans for NOvA installation. NOvA installation work quite substantial. Expected length of shutdown for NOvA installation, other improvements, and maintenance is 11.5 months, though optimization still possible - the longest shutdown in recent memory.

Q: Status of beam to SeaQuest?

A: Progress has been made, minimal vacuum established and direct line of sight. First beam likely mid-February.

Q: Proton expectations for SeaQuest?

A: SeaQuest will run 24/7 and be limited by maximum beam that can be slow-extracted from Main Injector, and Program Planning issues. Expected numbers are  $< \sim 1e12$ /pulse, with stretch goal of  $4e12$ /pulse.

EDIT detector school coming up 2/13-24 with 64 students accepted into program: morning plenary sessions from experts and afternoon hands-on work, including actual test beam. To improve likelihood of success, have approved  $\sim 10$  day shutdown starting next week to repair leaking Main Injector quad.

LBNE final agreement on liquid argon as nominal detector choice after long process of evaluations and deliberations.

Q: Rumor that substantial portion of collaboration preferred water.

A: Lab always planned to go ahead, at minimum, with liquid argon at small scale, for short-baseline experiments. LBNE decision meshes well with that. Present choice made by Project Manager Jim Strait, as culmination of decision process. Concurred with by Fermilab Director and DOE (though DOE does not formally approve detector choice until CD-1).

Q: Was collaboration behind the decision?

A: A lot of opinions, but general attitude to do the physics, and both technologies can achieve primary physics goals.

Q about contingency plans without Homestake.

A: NSF entirely out of lab construction. If DOE pursues LBNE, will likely do so at Homestake site. Homestake lab with LBNE would be different from DUSEL. In future, LBNE Homestake lab would be foothold a mile underground for further experiments.

Directorate meeting with Jim Siegrist at Fermilab today and tomorrow. Siegrist becoming well-informed about Fermilab infrastructure and technical areas.

### **Discussion of users' health insurance needs and role of International Services - Amanda Thompson**

Benefits Office informed that some users have trouble getting health insurance coverage while at Fermilab or in the US. Benefits Office looking into what they can provide via their buying power. Two major groups: 1) international users with no US insurance at all; 2) F1 visa holders with insurance limited to the site of their home institution. Some nations' national health programs cover visitors in US, but not nearly all. Numerous incidents of non- or partial coverage. A recurring problem.

Lab cannot pay for others' insurance, however, can group others' insurance along with Fermilab to reduce cost. Cost nevertheless substantial.

Q: Could be reimbursed through a grant?

A: A grey area. The other question is whether students would really purchase this coverage.

Amanda wants to clarify who "International Services" are - Visa Office and Users Office - and what they do: Provide much support for visa and green-card issues. Also try to accommodate users' non-technical needs. Currently spends much time on tax issues for users / foreign nationals. Also try to provide as much info to users as possible to make life at Lab more comfortable. Lab receives people with government visas, 168 business visas, 143 J-1 visitors (exchange, directly sponsored), 264 visa waivers (no explicit visas). Much of Amanda's work associated with users who are here year-long, which has legal ramifications. Also provide visa support for various Fermilab-sponsored conferences.

Amanda will collaborate with UEC Non-U.S. Users and Quality-of-Life subcommittees to determine what other services visa-holders and users could use. A short survey will be produced and distributed, but individuals could contact her or UEC members if they have particular thoughts.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

#### **Non-U.S. Users - Jonathan Lewis**

It's tax time, so KPMG tax presentation next Tuesday for international users. Expected to be better than last year's, though KPMG has continued to have trouble understanding who our users are.

A program called Glacier has been employed to determine people's tax status (resident, etc.) - looks very promising.

### **Govt. Relations - Brian Rebel**

Brian sent out 1-pager draft and wants input, directed to Todd or Bob. Read for content - the format would be entirely different.

DC Trip assignment procedure worked on, almost ready. Once assignments made, each participant to make appointments individually and follow up. Wiki page will be redistributed to UEC members, otherwise they will not find it. Much wiki content updated.

Brian needs to find out from Bruce how many participants will be supported. Typically, have had a consistent number which usually covers all from the GSA and UEC who want to attend.

Trip logistics: block of hotel rooms reserved. Most participants will be there 3/20-22. Some will stay 'til 3/23. Training meeting 3/10 with remote location at SLAC. This meeting very useful, particularly for those who have not gone before. Bridget Krieger will be there; previously someone from APS has also come. Training useful not just for details of meeting, but also for the message.

Folders of promotional materials will be taken and left at all offices: various one-pagers, Symmetry, APS-DPB brochure, and a ruler. Estimated need 300 folders. Discussion of need for more specialty technical articles for those (fairly frequent) staffers who are more interested. Also of need for more physical items that could be informative left-behinds (e.g. rulers, etc.).

### **Users' Meeting - Lisa Whitehead**

Tevatron Symposium still in planning stage (see report above from Katie).

Notifications of the dates will be sent to users and VIPs. Public speaker will be invited in February. Will submit proposal to Visiting Scholar program to support grad student funding for the meeting. Spokespersons will be solicited for speakers and poster presenters. Posters will be produced and distributed for the meeting.

Lisa asks for suggestions for public lecturers. Past years' were Chu, Koonin, Katsouleas, Steinhardt, Smoot, Augustine.

Should we have a Users Organization business session during the meeting? This was experimental last year. Some feeling that it was useful, but we need to clarify the scope.

Dick will assemble the poster for this meeting. He asks for suggestions. Care must be taken that it not too closely resemble those of other meetings.

## **Quality of Life - Mike Cooke**

Fermilab Environmental Protection Subcommittee Chair Eric Mieland attended last QoL meeting. Very interested in solving the "last mile" problem of connecting Lab to train stations. Fermilab participates in PACE vanpool program that may be partial solution. Program needs to be advertised and tested.

Fermilab ran carpool survey in 2010 showing substantial support. If something actually implemented, we'll need to monitor and verify it works.

Extended taxi hours now implemented on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, leaving Wilson Hall at 5:15. Posters advertising this service were posted. Michael knows people have heard of program, but waiting for usage numbers.

Plan to participate in 2012 Argonne Career Fair which includes Postdoctoral Research Symposium. QoL Subcommittee will coordinate with Argonne to clarify Fermilab involvement.

Various Fermilab offices offer many programs and services, much of which unknown to many. Involvement by users could be greatly enhanced with additional advertisement or a clearer presentation of the possibilities. It would be nice if the GSA Guide to Life Wiki could connect well to this. GSA reports its wiki maintenance is marginal (the wiki is hosted on Plone). GSA should contact Amanda to get list of all graduate students registered at Fermilab.

## **Outreach - Nikos Varelas**

Nikos notes the Outreach webpage is very out of date - will update it.

Outreach Subcommittee met with Kurt Riesselmann and Don Lincoln. Plan to proceed with two initiatives: 1) collect information for university profiles in Fermilab Today, 2) assemble database of users willing to write HEP articles for newspapers and the science editors of various local news organizations.

Will solicit users to contact their local news sources and gather contact information for Office of Communications. Those users could then be local contacts for various news stations. Online form assembled to collect this information.

The University Profiles were last updated in 2010. Will start again at maximum of one per week. Will start with UEC universities, then try to round out Users Organization institutions.

## **Graduate Student Organization**

Working to update their webpage.

Preparing for the New Perspectives conference (day after Users Meeting) and need to resolve issue of the poster session conflicting with potential posters for Tevatron Symposium. Initial

plan to have posters mounted the Friday before, but the official poster session is now Tuesday evening. Possible to have both sets up at the same time or to trade off between. They need more judges for the contest.

Next UEC meeting: February 24, 2012 in the afternoon

Scribe: Bob Zwaska