



Minutes of the Fermilab UEC Meeting on June 14, 2012

Attending:

Todd Adams, Michael Cooke, Dick Gustafson, Sergo Jindariani, Daniel Kaplan (remote), Greg Pawloski, Brian Rebel, Lisa Whitehead, Bob Zwaska

(GSA officers at New Perspectives Conference)

News from the Chair – Dan Kaplan

Next meeting will be in 2012-13 term - date TBD once new members elected.

New members: nominations in process, a few nomination forms circulating. Candidates can be nominated by form or by UEC members. Discussion: should aim for diversity (by field, gender, age, geography, etc.). Election will be by web vote administered by Dan with help from Todd.

Expertise within UEC needs to be passed from year to year. Finishing officers indicate they will be available for consultation in future years.

Dan has established LinkedIn group for tracking Fermilab outcomes / alumni. Need to inform relevant people of group's existence and refine group's description. Concept is for all former and current employees and users to join the group. Group may then be a convenient way to track outcomes from Fermilab. The group should be advertised to the entire users' organization, put on the GSA wiki, and placed with Barb so that the information can be shared at the time of getting a user ID.

Lewis-Burke report – Bridget Krieger

Bridget asked about Washington visitors at the Users' Meeting. Jim Siegrist (DOE) and Saul Gonzales (NSF) gave talks.

On appropriations, House and Senate have marked up their version of the Energy & Water bills. HEP differs by \$5 million between houses. Both are below 2012 enacted, however there is favorable language within the bills. Having LBNE plan together prevents that from holding up appropriation.

Likely to operate under Continuing Resolution for some time (November?). Sequestration another issue. Significant possibility of delaying sequestration to allow new Congress time to address budget control. Substantial debate on whom the sequestration cuts should fall.

Overall, good news that appropriations bills moving forward (a bit faster than usual). Still, with the election, passage by start of fiscal year extremely unlikely. Quicker speed of deliberation may actually be positive effect of budget control act whereby budget caps already set, shortening the process. Also, less-political appropriations may occur before the election, such as NSF (but not DOE).

Impact of sequestration cuts not so clear. Numbers at agency level more-or-less set, but unclear how they trickle down to programs.

Hultgren proposed amendment to Energy & Water bill to increase HEP funding. It failed, substantially because of rules requiring accompanying cut to some other program of twice the value.

Q: What should UEC be doing until next meeting in September?

A: Reach out to legislators at home (in the district). Tell legislators and staffs our concerns.

Bridget will send information about coordinated effort by non-defense discretionary institutions to make case for support going into sequestration.

Subcommittee Reports:

Users Meeting – Lisa Whitehead

About 500 registrants. Lisa received good feedback on diversity of talks (physics, accelerator, test beam). Test beam talk useful, but suggest diversity in future years (description of some actual tests, rotating speakers).

Town Hall meeting had only one talk, a history lesson.

Dinner and poster session worked well - plenty of food and lines not too long. Suggestion to rotate - not just do barbecue. Better to have food at all breaks, and non-coffee drink options.

Discussion on format - how to fit more into schedule. Previously additional talks by "young people" on specific topics, rather than entire experiments, but tough to fit them in. CMS and ATLAS would prefer more time. But adding a day, or extending the schedule, sounds difficult.

Suggestion: try to get experiments to present new results at Users' Meeting. Has been a lot of resistance to this.

Will be coordination issue with "Snowmass" workshop next summer.

Suggestion: put together post-meeting survey asking for feedback and suggestions. Also ask people who didn't attend why not, and what they would like to see.

Poster session gained from having more judges, and from breaking it into groups. Would be hard to deal with it in under two hours.

Government Relations – Brian Rebel

Have leftovers of accelerators Physics Today article that can be distributed next year. Brian suggests that if we need new items (e.g. rulers), thought be given in September. Unfortunately, that's when committee will be first formed.

In next few weeks, Brian will write up some notes on lessons learned and suggestions and post to the wiki.

Lisa has additional notes on assignment scripts to send to Sergo.

Some discussion whether to have a DC pre-meeting the night before the first day, rather than early in the morning. Goal would be to have more time to prepare, and to save time for the Hill. Generally thought quite difficult because of travel constraints.

Some strategy needed to plan executive office trips, and who attends them. Some advantage to mixing up attendance - also, in preserving time for the Hill.

Suggestion that we allocate more time to preparation/practice.

Quality of Life – Mike Cooke

Late-hours taxis have continued, but ridership marginal. Advertising seems successful, so will pursue it more forcefully. Summer is crucial time for evaluating this program.

Mike pursuing Zip-cars with Amanda Thompson. A number of issues to work out concerning international driving licenses.

Directorate considering UEC proposal to participate in Argonne Career Fair. At minimum, we will coordinate entrance cards. Substantial question is whether there will be a bus from Fermilab.

International Users – Sergo Jindariani

Most of the work coordinated through Amanda Thompson. Tax seminar went well. Naturalization seminar skipped this year, will be done next year. Possibility of health insurance for-purchase options still being pursued.

Outreach – Mike Cooke (for Nikos Varelas)

Handout for education office to get scientists involved in outreach. Marge Bardeen presentation at Users' Meeting was a good library of efforts. There are many programs. The part that could still use glue is connecting scientists to programs, interns to programs, potential outreachees to programs.

Next UEC meeting: Sept. 2012 (date TBD)

Scribe: Bob Zwaska