



Minutes of the Fermilab UEC Meeting November 9, 2012

Attending:

Mary Anne Cummings, Craig Group, Sergo Jindariani, Daniel Kaplan, Ryan Patterson (remote), Breese Quinn (remote), Mandy Rominsky, Gregory Snow (remote), Nikos Varelas (remote), Bob Zwaska (*Absent: Greg Pawloski, Lee Roberts*)

FSPA: Anthony Barker, Vladimir Khalatyan, Carrie McGivern

Guests: Carole McGuire (remote), Harvey Newman (remote), Pier Oddone, Amanda Thompson

Presentations

<https://indico.fnal.gov/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=6109>

News from the Chair – Nikos Varelas

UEC was featured in Fermilab Today:

http://www.fnal.gov/pub/today/archive_2012/today12-11-01.html

The search committee for the Fermilab Director has been formed. The committee will meet with Fermilab users and staff on Dec. 11-12. Herman White will represent the activities of the search committee to the UEC at the next meeting on Dec. 7.

FSPA has conducted their election, and the new elected members are:

- Leonidas Aliaga, College of William and Mary
- Anthony Barker, Rutgers University
- Vladimir Khalatyan, Northern Illinois University
- Carrie McGivern, University of Pittsburg
- Jason St. John, Boston University

Three FSPA representatives were present at the UEC meeting.

UEC public web pages have been updated by Nikos. Nikos now knows the process well and can guide other UEC members in updating their pages.

Young-Kee Kim has informed the UEC that the Fermilab Holiday Dinner will be on Dec. 13. The next UEC Meeting will be on Friday, Dec. 7, noon-4pm, at the Black Hole. A poll has been sent out regarding future meeting dates. Fridays and Saturdays are under consideration.

Users Meeting Subcommittee – Greg Snow

The main issue discussed was how to integrate the proposed ILC event with the Users Meeting. The goal of the ILC event is to celebrate the completion of the TDR in coordination with other events worldwide. The main advantage of co-scheduling the ILC event and the Users meeting is that they could both be attended by governmental representatives who may be able to travel only once.

The current proposal is to have the ILC event in late afternoon of the first day extending over about two hours. Another possibility that was discussed is to move the ILC session to the end of the second day in order to be distinct from the Users Meeting. Several members of the UEC favored this option, and Greg will convey this back to Young-Kee and the other ILC representatives. In addition, the evening of the first day of the Users Meeting is slated for a poster session and shortening this to one hour long, as well as accommodating a banquet in this time slot might be difficult.

Outreach Subcommittee – Mandy Rominsky

The subcommittee met recently to establish goals for next year. Ryan will be responsible for the subcommittee's web page. The subcommittee will connect with other outreach efforts (FSPA, Snowmass, CMS, etc.).

Breese was recently involved in a major outreach event and presented his thoughts on this experience. It was a National Lab Day in Mississippi (<http://www.research.olemiss.edu/agenda/>). Lab Directors, Congresspersons, and University administrators were present. The event was organized by LBNL, ORNL, and ANL with industry support prominently featured. Fermilab involvement in these types of events would be beneficial, particularly involvement of the users community.

Government Relations & Local Government Subcommittee – Breese Quinn

The subcommittee has met and assigned tasks to all its members. Breese has been in contact with Lewis-Burke. They will provide a priority list of people to be contacted, particularly in the Senate. The priority list will help us find people who would be ideal to invite along on the trip. This effort is to be completed in this month.

News & Plans from USLUO – Harvey Newman

Harvey Newman gave a presentation on US LUO (the US LHC Users Organization) and how it may be coordinated with the UEC. Obviously, the prominent news is the recent discovery of a Higgs-like particle. This discovery has garnered substantial attention from the public and policy-makers. US LUO is grappling with issues related to potential upgrades and long-term plans for the LHC. US LUO participates in other outreach events, including the NUFO event on the Hill and Quarknet. US LUO has also benefited from media training from Katie Yurkewicz and the Fermilab Office of Communication.

Harvey reviewed the 2012 DC trip that took place in conjunction with the UEC and SLUO. The message was well received, but the impact is unclear; basic research is not a priority for the administration. It was stated during several visits that explicit support for a HEP project could be viewed as an earmark. Harvey highlighted the executive office visits. One of the messages communicated was that Congress would not be swayed by arguments for the importance of leadership in HEP; Harvey and several others on the UEC found this assertion debatable. This visit also had the odd luck of coinciding with the DOE determination that LBNE was too expensive and had to be descoped. There were substantial discussions at all meetings on this regard.

US LUO has been trying to establish an organizational home. They have settled on URA as the most appropriate option. US LUO may transform into a formally established nonprofit organization: the US LHC Users Association (US LUA).

There was discussion between Harvey and the UEC on coordination for the 2013 Washington trip. There will be a small meeting among main principals to discuss and refine the message for the trip. Breese also mentioned that he would like to procure early from potential trip attendees the information on congressional connections. Mary Anne asked when we would know committee assignments; we expect to have a good idea by January, and substantial changes are not expected.

Quality of Life & Non-US Users Subcommittee – Sergo Jindariani

In previous years, the Quality of Life and Non-US Users subcommittees were separate, and Sergo served on both of them. He finds combining the two subcommittees in one to be appropriate and useful. The subcommittee has met recently and settled upon a range of initial issues to address.

The annual filing of tax returns has been a complicated issue for non-US users. In many cases, foreign visitors are supposed to pay US taxes and it is their responsibility to find out if any taxes are due. The Office of International Services at Fermilab has been providing assistance to users, including informational meetings and tax preparation software. The subcommittee also works with the International Office on immigration matters.

Transportation issues: a Zipcar has been suggested at several occasions, but some complications have been preventing implementation; a subcommittee member has been assigned to follow up on this. It would also be quite useful if the Fermilab taxi could go off-site (like at LBNL). A Pace bus is another option. One problem with trying out such a service is that it may take months for people to even realize that a vehicle is available, so such a trial may be doomed to fail.

There was inadequate time to complete Sergo's presentation, so discussion on this was deferred for the next UEC meeting.

News from Washington – Carole McGuire

The election changed very little the political landscape. The advantage is that the lame duck Congress is not so lame. There is a hope that the fiscal cliff will be averted. Appropriations are not so likely, since the present continuing resolution extends through March. Congress seems to want to avoid sequestration, but nothing is guaranteed. Even if sequestration is triggered, its implementation may take some time.

There has been substantial turnover in the House Science Committee; 10 members have lost their seats. One notable change was Judy Biggert who lost to Bill Foster.

There was some discussion about turnover in the administration. Some members of the DOE administration are likely to leave (not all). Also, DOE's focus (e.g., green energy,

etc.) is not expected to change much since it is being driven by the President.

News from the Directorate – Pier Oddone

Nikos asked about the status of the Lab and how LBNE is progressing. Pier started with LBNE: the review went well, but there is an independent cost estimate and the actual approval is still to come. Otherwise, things are mostly positive: NOvA is going well in terms of its construction, but the budget is tight in terms of contingency. MicroBooNE is progressing very well, possibly ahead of schedule and Mu2e will have post CD-1 mini review on Nov 19. The Lab is also getting involved in new initiatives: 2nd generation dark matter, BigBOSS, DESpec, etc.

The fiscal cliff and sequestration are concerns and could have serious impact on the Lab since we are already in extremely tight budget this year due to the cut going from FY12 to FY13 in the President's Budget Request. There is hope that Congress will fix sequestration, but the details have not been worked out at all. Implementation details and flexibility to respond to such details are critical issues. The administration has not prepared for sequestration up to this point.

It was asked what impact IARC might have on improving the Lab's short-term projects. Pier responded that the IARC model of advancing accelerator technology in partnership with universities and industries is moving ahead, but that the full refurbishment of the CDF assembly building has been delayed by the tight budget. Additionally, Pier mentioned that Fermilab's competency in superconducting RF (SRF) may pay dividends in this area of industrial collaborations. Various projects worldwide require SRF and may employ Fermilab expertise, supporting part of the SRF Lab's program and helping the laboratory maintain an important core competency.

It was asked whether philanthropic support is a possibility for the Lab. Pier responded that it is possible, but quite difficult as funding a federal facility is not generally preferred by donors. There are options that can be explored for some projects that may be attractive and involve educational institutions.

Nikos asked whether there would be any scientist positions the following year, even in this tough environment. Pier responded that new positions would not be stopped, as we are losing people, but new positions would be minimal.

There was discussion about the range of activities in Fermilab's scope, particularly with regard to Project X and its potential applications in nuclear science, material science, and nuclear energy. Pier responded that Project X's primary goal will be HEP, but other applications would be examined as plans for the facility develop.

There was a question about the Japanese proposal to build the ILC and how it plays into the Snowmass process. Pier responded that the Japanese community has put together a plan for how to proceed. Some individuals within the US have requested that DOE supports the effort and potentially contributes to it. It is difficult to imagine how the US can squeeze such a large item as a significant participation would require from the

present HEP budget with the ongoing program and participation in the LHC. Fermilab is well positioned technically to participate in terms of building components for the ILC.

There was a question about Chinese collaboration, particularly for a circular Higgs factory. Pier responded that he just returned from China and there was no discussion of a Higgs factory. However, the Chinese are pursuing participation into Daya Bay 2 – a much larger and ambitious detector at a larger distance from reactors in order to attempt to measure the mass hierarchy.

Office of International Services – Amanda Thompson

Amanda discussed the various functions of the Office of International Services. They have a Visa Office, which supports and informs the users and employees in visa related issues. They also assist with ancillary issues, such as taxes and insurance. They can actually liaise directly with government, hospitals, and insurance companies. The Users Office supports users with badging, computing, event planning, and the UEC. The arts and lectures series is supported through this office.

The International Office is providing support for a service called Global Entry. Global Entry allows people to navigate through airport immigration and customs much more quickly. Because of staff shortages, delays in entering O'Hare are expected to grow to 4 hours. On the other hand, Global Entry can cut that to a few minutes. The Office is becoming familiar with the application process and will assist Fermilab employees and users in procuring it. The cost is \$100, and whether Fermilab can assist with some portion of that is under discussion.

The tax seminars will continue, and are quite important. The issue is that users residing in the US who are paid by foreign sources still incur US taxes. They often do not realize this and can suffer large fines. We discussed options of informing people when receiving an ID, or even have a short online training course when registering with Fermilab. In addition, there will be seminars on renewing visas, becoming a permanent resident, and naturalization. In all, there will be seven seminars over the next 12 months. Amanda is trying to put together translations of various online seminars, but needs to get support in the form of one or more interns. There is actually substantial work there.

Dan brought up the idea of having a public TV monitor in the Wilson Hall atrium to display news from the Lab, International/Users Office, seminar schedule etc. Amanda thought it was a great idea.

Nikos requested that the UEC QoL subcommittee adds links to the various resources in the International Office. Sergio will coordinate with Amanda and/or Barb to achieve this. Options for surveying the users community about issues related to the International Office were discussed. Amanda has a subscription to the Adobe Forms survey tool and could easily put surveys together.

Next UEC meeting date: December 7, noon-4:00 pm, Black Hole (2NW)

Scribe: Bob Zwaska