



Minutes of the Fermilab UEC Meeting October 19, 2012

Attending:

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

FSPA: Chris Prokop

Guests: Greg Bock, Young-Kee Kim, Katie Yurkewicz

Presentations

<https://indico.fnal.gov/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=6045>

News from the Directorate (1) – Young-Kee Kim

The Deputy Director came early to discuss next year's Users Meeting in coordination with an international ILC event. The ILC is completing its TDR and reorganizing to be headed by Lyn Evans. It is hoped to have an international event next summer to highlight this milestone, and the proposed dates coincide with the Users Meeting in June 12-13, 2013. The meeting would be a coordinated, public, international event among the three regions (KEK, CERN, and Fermilab). The idea is to have a small (two hour long) symposium during the first day of the Users Meeting with public speakers and media coverage. There will be an organizing meeting on Wednesday, Oct 24, so Young-Kee requested feedback from the UEC on precisely how the event might fit with the Users Meeting.

News from the Chair – Nikos Varelas

The UEC subcommittee structure is now set. With some consolidation, there are now four subcommittees. See reports below.

The Users Meeting was discussed along with Young-Kee's proposal to have an international ILC event during the first day of the meeting. There was concern that the past Users Meeting schedule was very tight, and next year's could be worse. The committee accepted Young-Kee's proposal, but agreed that the ILC event should be separated from the Users Meeting.

Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association: The organization now exists replacing the Graduate Student Association and an election is underway, ending on October 22. There will be three student and two postdoc officers.

The UEC needs web support to maintain web pages on the official UEC site and private wiki. Nikos will update the UEC main and subcommittee web pages, but subcommittees will principally be responsible for their own areas. The FSPA may be able to help with this.

Fermilab Alumni list: Dan Kaplan has been leading this effort, communicating with spokespersons to get this information, and has had mixed results. The approach used has been to go to PIs to get the information, but PIs usually do not have good information on where their former students and postdocs currently are, particularly if they have left the field.

User outreach: In the past there were informal “Meet the UEC” events along with coffee breaks or wine & cheese. These were not effective. Other options were discussed, such as an open UEC meeting, a feedback meeting adjacent to the UEC meeting, meetings with specific subcommittees, etc. A specific agenda is necessary to ensure effective meetings. One option is to share the issues that the UEC is actively pursuing in order to attract people who are interested in them.

The university profiles on Fermilab Today have been very successful, and the process of collecting information has been very efficient. Nikos suggests expanding it into experimental profiles.

Upcoming meetings: Nov. 9, 8:30-noon, and Dec. 7, noon-4pm. Future dates were discussed.

FSPA Report – Chris Prokop

An election for officers is underway. New Perspectives will be held the day before the Users Meeting.

Outreach Subcommittee – Mandy Rominsky

This year presents a good opportunity for expanding outreach along with the Higgs discovery and other events. Perhaps such expansion may be similar to the outreach mobilization with the World Year of Physics several years ago. There is need to ensure that the importance of public outreach is recognized.

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

The group will meet over the next month. There are ongoing issues since last year including: international taxes, immigration, health insurance, job fair, zip car, etc.

The job fair was very successful with over 30 people attending from Fermilab. Argonne was very accommodating to get people in. Nikos has been in contact with Harry Weerts, the HEP Division Director at Argonne about the career fair. Harry supports strongly a collaboration with Fermilab on this issue, but Fermilab has not yet identified a person who would be responsible for (co-)organizing the fair in the future.

Users Meeting Subcommittee – Greg Snow

The dates for next year’s Users Meeting have been set–Wednesday-Thursday, June 12-13, 2013. Greg presented this past year’s Users Meeting schedule and discussed how to adjust the schedule for next year. The Tevatron/LHC talks may be organized by topic, as many of the results can be combined next year. There was discussion of consolidating some of the neutrino experiments, but it was decided that most experiments will require

their own presentations. It was suggested to start the Users Meeting on Wednesday with the introduction of the new Fermilab Director, if he/she has been identified by then.

Government Relations & Local Government Subcommittee – Breese Quinn

Breese reminded everyone to respond to the Doodle poll for standing meetings and to get accounts on the wiki.

The Washington visit is the central topic for this group. Organization of the visit is starting now. The message will be crafted so that it has a very HEP-specific bent (as opposed to a general science message, in some past years). The distinction between HEP and particle physics was discussed. A unified message across the Hill is necessary. There will soon be a meeting with other users groups about crafting the message.

The selection of those who will be part of the visit will be carefully crafted this year. Congressional connections of UEC members will be established very soon to gauge coverage. Other users will be asked to join the effort where appropriate. Training will be substantial.

News from Washington – Carole McGuire (Lewis-Burke)

Washington is quiet policy-wise because of the election. Congress returns in mid-November for the lame duck session. There will be some effort to solve some of the various issues on a short-term: sequestration, fiscal cliff, year-long budget.

Subcommittees are starting to discuss conference reports for final appropriations bills. Omnibus in lame-duck session is long shot, but not impossible. Negotiating will be necessary for the Budget Control Act numbers, which are higher than the original appropriations.

News from the Directorate (2) – Greg Bock

The Associate Director Greg Bock reported on the progress of the accelerator shutdown. The work is progressing well as scheduled, and the shutdown is expected to be completed by April 1. The scope of the work is quite large with all of the upgrades for NOvA, normal maintenance that had been delayed a few years, and the start of the Proton Improvement Plan.

The NOvA experiment installation is also going well. The first two major blocks of the detector have been erected. The progress on those blocks has demonstrated that the full detector can be assembled at the necessary rate. The detector is expected to be about half-complete when the beam returns. The experiment is still studying the long-term life of their APD light detectors. A cavern is being excavated adjacent to the MINOS near detector hall. No problems have been encountered so far.

The g-2 experiment has received CD-0. The ring is disassembled at Brookhaven and many parts have been brought to Fermilab. Plans exist to move the coil. These plans may include the closing of roads in Long Island and tollways in Illinois. Helicopters are no longer involved. Fermilab does not have the funding for moving the detector this

year, though may receive help from a university. The plan is to be taking data in 2015 and 2016.

LBNE is progressing with a CD-1 review in 1.5 weeks. CD-1 is hoped to follow very shortly. The Lab and experiment are working to involve foreign groups and agencies, in particular, to move the detector below ground or build a near detector.

Seaquest has solved the beam pipe issues. Expecting to run well after the shutdown.

MicroBooNE is moving along with the building nearly complete, and the TPC under construction in D0. Cryostat will arrive in January.

MINOS+ and MINERvA will return to taking data after the shutdown.

Mu2e achieved CD-1 and has received further funding. The collaboration has grown and is better, analyzing their systematic reach.

Nikos asked about the health of the various collaborations. Greg responds that there has been growth in all of them. In particular, DOE has been moving forward in terms of helping support groups, and that has been very beneficial.

News from the Office of Communication – Katie Yurkewicz

The Office of Communication is coordinating several events next year, including the aforementioned ILC event, the restart of the accelerator complex in April, and the departure of Director Pier Oddone on July 1.

Snowmass process: Katie is involved with the outreach working group and is looking for more involvement from the UEC and users. The goal is to clearly communicate the outcome of the community study process.

There was a discussion of the materials that will be used in UEC's DC trip in Spring 2013. There will be a new print issue of Symmetry that will provide an overview of some of the major topics in particle physics. In addition, several other fact sheets and brochures (including the HEP brochure developed with DPF last year) will need to be updated. Later in 2013 there may be a second print issue of Symmetry dedicated to the Snowmass process.

Next UEC meeting date: November 9

Scribe: Bob Zwaska