



## Minutes of the Fermilab UEC Meeting April 19, 2013

### **Attending:**

Mary Anne Cummings, Craig Group, Sergio Jindariani, Ryan Patterson, Greg Pawloski (remote), Lee Roberts (remote), Breese Quinn (remote), Mandy Rominsky, Gregory Snow, Nikos Varelas (*Not Present:* Daniel Kaplan, Bob Zwaska)

**FSPA:** Anthony Barker, Carrie McGivern

**Guests:** Pier Oddone, Young-Kee Kim, Glen Crawford, Carole McGuire

### **Presentations**

<https://indico.fnal.gov/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=6718>

### **News from the Directorate – Pier Oddone and Young-Kee Kim**

Pier discussed the aftermath of the President's FY14 budget. HEP is reduced by 1.8%. It may take a while to know what the final number will be.

Pier and Young-Kee praised UEC's efforts for passing a strong message to the members of Congress supporting the HEP program during our March trip to the Capitol Hill.

### **News from Washington - Carol McGuire (Lewis-Burke Associates)**

The testimony that UEC submitted to the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee was very well received. In fact the testimony was used from Rep. Randy Hultgren to make the case to the Subcommittee Chairman Frelinghuysen for adding \$25 million back to the HEP budget. A similar testimony to the Senate E&W Subcommittee is due on May 9.

In the next few weeks, we can expect to get a new Secretary of Energy, Dr. Moniz. Also, last week was Bill Brinkman's last day and we have a new acting Director (Pat Dehmer). There has been a flurry of activity since the President's FY14 budget came out. Members of congress are putting together programmatic requests, including ones to restore some HEP funding. There has been endorsement of the SLI for facility upgrades. House requests go in today and Senate requests go in next week. The base programs for HEP are strongly supported. It would be a good idea to follow up with staffers we met during the March DC trip.

### **FY13 DOE Funding Experience – Glen Crawford (DOE)**

Due to budget constraints and sequestration, FY13 was a tough year for funding. In addition, it was a peak year for university grant requests, with a lot of groups applying, so competition was intense and some groups/PIs took bigger hits than others. On the Energy Frontier (EF) side the Tevatron programs were ramped down. This was a combination of shifting priorities and preparing for new projects. Details on the funding statistics can be found in Glen's talk at the HEPAP meeting on March 2013:

([http://science.energy.gov/~media/hep/hepap/pdf/march-2013/FY13\\_HEP\\_Comp\\_Review\\_Revised\\_Crawford\\_FINAL.pdf](http://science.energy.gov/~media/hep/hepap/pdf/march-2013/FY13_HEP_Comp_Review_Revised_Crawford_FINAL.pdf)).

Several senior research scientists at university groups were not funded this year, as it was the case for last year as well. Out of the 80 research scientists reviewed, about 55-60% were funded, mostly on the technology R&D and EF programs. A small number of non-funded research scientists are being picked up from various detector operation funds. The research scientists who were funded had unique responsibilities or skills in their collaborations, and they were recognized as experts in their areas.

Glen said that FY14 might be an even tougher year given the current budget atmosphere. Regarding funding for postdocs, Glen said that DOE would like to see postdocs (and students for that matter) get a balanced experience in detector development/commissioning/operation and physics analysis.

A question was asked about comparative reviews. This year only panel reviews were held (no mail reviews). The panel was divided into smaller groups that were responsible for a handful of proposals. In addition to the individual panelist reviews, panel summaries were written for each proposal, taking into account comments from the entire panel. This feedback was passed to the group PIs, but it took some time to put it together (the reports had to be edited to remove any reviewer identification).

A question was raised about whether DOE gets additional feedback on the performance of the groups/PIs under review, especially those in large experimental collaborations since sometimes it can be hard to judge how much impact a small group has. Glen noted that the panel includes knowledgeable leaders/senior members from the large collaborations to comment on a group's performance during the panel discussion.

#### **News from the Chair – Nikos Varelas**

First, Nikos discussed his presentation to the FRA Visiting Committee on March 29, 2013. Then most of the discussion was centered on the Users Meeting. The meeting webpage is now up and all links are functional. Registration is now open. New Perspectives is going to expand from 1 day on Tuesday (June 11) to a day and a half Monday afternoon to Tuesday. There is a possibility for lunch with industry people to discuss job prospects. You can register for the Users Meeting at the link below:

[http://www.fnal.gov/orgs/fermilab\\_users\\_org/users\\_mtg/2013/](http://www.fnal.gov/orgs/fermilab_users_org/users_mtg/2013/)

There was a discussion on the agenda and speakers for various talks, in addition to other organizational tasks. There was also some discussion on holding elections for new UEC members. Nominations need to happen soon.

Nikos, on behalf of UEC, submitted a 4-page written testimony to the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee asking for sustained support of the HEP program (March 29).

### **Government Relations – Breese Quinn**

Breese summarized UEC's trip to Washington DC on March 13-15. It was a huge success! 13 members from UEC, 4 from FSPA, 15 from USLUO, and 7 from SLUO visited 253 offices in three days. Details from the visit can be found in Breese's presentation and Nikos' FRA report.

More outreach to members of Congress at their home offices is badly needed. Breese will send out some instructions with talking points for interactions with staffers.

### **Quality of Life and Non-US Users – Sergo Jindariani**

Sergo presented the upcoming events (April/May) related to immigration issues:

- Self-Sponsored Permanent Residence
- Planning for Permanent Residence
- How to Naturalize

He also discussed a career event on preparation for industry jobs that will be scheduled in June/July. The speakers have been identified.

Next UEC meeting: May 10, noon -4pm

*Scribe: Mandy Rominsky*