



Minutes of the Fermilab UEC Meeting February 1, 2013

Attending

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

FSPA: Carrie McGivern, Leonidas Aliaga, Anthony Barker, Vladimir Khalatyan

Guests: Young-Kee Kim, Pier Oddone, Jonathan Rosner

Presentations

<https://indico.fnal.gov/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=6365>

News from the Directorate – Pier Oddone, Young-Kee Kim

The Director discussed how HEP has been squeezed by the Office of Science and OMB, and that it is hard to make the case for basic research when the priorities are energy and advanced manufacturing. New investigators are not getting funded and the total amount of university funding has decreased. Pier is concerned about competition for funding among Labs and universities and how that relationship could change under extreme budget pressures. How can we make a global impact with the US program? The European strategy has been announced and has helped to solidify the support for the current direction for DOE. If we can get funding from other sources, then LBNE could be moved underground and be more attractive. There is also some concern about having a viatl program with enough experiments to support collaborators here at the Lab. Pier pointed out that with the decrease of experiments at Fermilab, the number of users hasn't decreased that much. A long discussion followed about the size of the field and what the right size is. What should the field's configuration be in the next few years?

Pier then discussed NOvA. NOvA has nearly no contingency remaining, but most of the risks have been retired. However, DOE is not happy because NOvA is running out of contingency with a significant amount of work remaining. But from a technical point of view, huge progress has been made. The humidity problem with the APDs has been resolved, as well as problems with the glue. We are looking at a delay for the start of the beam up of about 2 months, primarily for budgetary reasons, bringing the machine up on June 1.

News from the search committee appeared in a Fermilab Today article. A group of about sixty nominees has been reduced to about twelve. Subcommittees have been dispatched to follow up with those twelve people. At their next meeting in late February, the search committee will decide on a list of people to interview. Interviews are scheduled for the end of March. Pier is optimistic they will get a new Fermilab Director on time, with the new Director being announced in June. Also noted was that the URA has a new member – University of Manchester.

Pier discussed the plan for facilities. HEPAP will make a categorized list of facilities we want, such as the LHC upgrade, Project X, LSST and nuSTORM, and any project that starts at 100 million dollars. This most likely won't squeeze smaller projects.

DPF Plans and Activities – Jonathan Rosner (DPF Chair, University of Chicago)

Jonathan Rosner gave a presentation on current DPF activities. They include: organizing sessions at the April APS meeting, and organizing Snowmass and the DPF meeting in Santa Cruz, following Snowmass.

- Snowmass will start on July 29 with plenary sessions, followed by several days of working group meetings, and then the last two days are reserved for more plenary sessions. There is a website (<http://snowmass2013.org>) with more details, including how the working groups are organized. Each working group will provide approximately 30-page reports plus an executive summary. Those summaries will be compressed together to form the overall message from the conference.
- The DPF meeting will be held in Santa Cruz, following Snowmass. The first two days will include discussions of the outcome of Snowmass.

In addition to organizing the above conferences, DPF is involved in congressional visits during the APS convocation in mid-April. Other activities include fellowship awards (Wilson, Panofsky, Sakurai), Primakoff early career award, and thesis awards. They are also involved in nominating APS Fellows. There was a question on making nominations and how long a nomination stays in the system. In general, a nomination is good for two years. This year there were 60 nominations and 12 were selected, with five alternates for a total of 17. The panel that chooses the Fellows consists of three theorists and three experimentalists.

There was also a question about travel support from DPF to attend the APS meeting. The APS website needs to be updated. There are 20 lines of support with a maximum of 500 dollars each. And lastly, Ian Shipsey will be Jonathan Rosner's successor on January 1, 2014.

News from FSPA – Carrie McGivern (University of Pittsburg)

Fermilab Student and Postdoc associates (FSPA) replaces the old Graduate Student Association. It is open to everyone from students at any level to postdocs, and was organized by last year's officers. The transition happened over the summer and elections were held in October. The new officers are:

- Leonidas Aliaga (User's meeting)
- Anthony Barker (Quality of Life, Treasurer/Budget)
- Vladimir Khalatyan (Non-US users, website)
- Jason St. John (Outreach)
- Carrie McGivern (Government Relations, manage listserv)

The new officers' first event was to host the annual Halloween party. They have also introduced new activities, like Bad Physics Movie nights and a reinvented Pub night. In

addition, they are working on planning the New Perspectives conference, and might add a second day. They are also working on preparing for the annual trip to DC. Some new activities are a Journal club – a weekly meeting where students talk about topics of their choice. This led to the idea of doing Food for Thought again, which was organized by Dave Christian.

News from the Chair – Nikos Varelas

Nikos noted that Carol McGuire wasn't able to attend, since she was sick. The only update from Washington is:

- House and Senate have reached a temporary agreement to suspend the debt ceiling of \$16.4 trillion until May. (See: <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/01/senate-passes-debt-ceiling-no-budget-no-pay-bill-87018.html>)

Nikos then went over a letter from DOE/NSF about the facility funding, highlighting these sections (the entire letter can be found in Nikos' presentation):

- “We note that the Facilities subpanel will not rank order projects. Moreover, this SC planning process is not intended to preclude additional ideas that may emerge from the Snowmass and P5 activities to follow.”
- “We note that the DPF process will not *recommend* priorities but it can certainly have strong input to the upcoming prioritization process (see below), and can make statements about the sense of the community regarding the importance and impact of these future concepts. We urge participation by the entire US community in developing a common vision for the future of HEP. We expect the DPF process will produce a report that summarizes the science case and highlights selected areas that need additional research and/or technology R&D. We further note that, from the funding agency perspective, the report would be much more useful if it makes some scientific judgments, for example the extent to which each proposed project would address the most important scientific questions, and whether there are other ways to answer these questions.”
- “Finally, the funding agencies expect to charge HEPAP with establishing a new program prioritization subpanel (a.k.a. P5) around the time of the completion of the Snowmass process. HEPAP/P5 will use the input from Snowmass, along with budgetary and other input from DOE/NSF, to recommend a new strategic plan for US HEP in various scenarios. It is important to remember that HEPAP is the federally sanctioned body that provides advice to the funding agencies on the HEP program. It is one of the few official paths the agencies have for collecting community input. We expect they will consult with DPF and the Snowmass working groups (among others) in their process. The new HEPAP/P5 strategic plan will then form a basis for DOE and NSF planning for the future of the US HEP/EPP program, just as the current U.S. program has been shaped by the previous P5 studies starting in 2006.”

P5 will convene at the end of the year and will prioritize projects. Nikos then discussed some news items. There is an upcoming presentation on tax preparation for non-citizens,

see the Quality of Life section for details. University Profiles in Fermilab Today will now be presented every other week. Some thoughts for the off weeks include profiles on recent graduate students and their future plans. We will discuss a list of questions for that Fermilab Today can ask.

The APS Unit Convocation is February 22-23 at APS headquarters. DPF will also use that time to talk to congressional offices about High Energy Physics and would like to use our new HEP brochure from our DC trip. Finally, Nikos announced the next several UEC meetings.

Government Relations – Breese Quinn

Tomorrow (February 2) is the planning meeting for the DC trip. Lots of work has been going into the preparation of materials so we can use them tomorrow. In particular, the HEP brochure has undergone extensive changes, particularly in the education and outreach sections. The section on the main science we are doing has been reworked to loosely resemble the three frontiers. If anyone does not have their travel cost estimates in, they should get them as soon as possible. Everyone is asked to stay in DC through that Friday, to get as many meetings as possible. Also, Representative Hultgren has started a new caucus for national Labs and recently held the first meeting. It was a huge success with about 400 attendees. He plans to hold meetings on a monthly basis.

User's Meeting Subcommittee – Greg Snow

The User's meeting webpage is up and we are going to invite Sean Carroll to give a talk. The meeting will close with a farewell to Pier, and the details are being worked out. The overall agenda now needs to be determined. The amount of time that would be devoted to Project X needs to be determined. Should the agenda also include a short discussion of Snowmass, figuring out what will happen in August? Right now, we should send a "save the date" email to the community and Greg will work on the agenda and Mary Anne on the poster.

Quality of Life and Non-US User's subcommittee – Sergo Jindariani

There are a couple of tax information meetings coming up for nonresidents (or filing taxes as non residents). The organizers could use some help during the Q&A sessions. There is also a presentation coming up on how to use the Glacier software. Putting LCD monitors in WH is something this committee is pursuing. A list of questions that need to be addressed was presented. In the past, VMS had monitors but took them down because maintenance was an issue. We would like the computing division to maintain the computers, and we would also like support from the Office of Communication on the content. Perhaps the UEC can be in charge of content, but the Office of Communication can run it. The Employee Advisory Group has a similar suggestion. Katie suggested getting a proposal together to send to the Directorate.

Lastly, finding jobs outside academia was discussed. An industry talk is planned for early spring, as well as an academia talk later in the year when people are preparing their applications. For the industry talk – Sharon Fang (Univ. of Chicago) will discuss "How

we can succeed in industry.” This might go over well as a brown bag seminar. The final date and time will be announced soon.

Next UEC meeting: March 8, 8:30 am-noon

Scribe: Mandy Rominsky