



Minutes of the Fermilab UEC Meeting January 4, 2013

Attending:

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

FSPA: Leonidas Aliaga, Carrie McGivern

Guests: Barb Book, Young-Kee Kim, Pier Oddone, Katie Yurkewicz

Presentations

<https://indico.fnal.gov/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=6213>

News from the Chair & Washington – Nikos Varelas

Nikos reviewed the news that Finland had declined to host the Long Baseline Neutrino Oscillation experiment (LBNO). This may increase the chance for European participation in LBNE. Meanwhile, LBNE was granted CD-1 by DOE.

Global Entry interview slots are filling up, but some are still available for the later date (March 14).

The next UEC meeting will be on Feb. 1, followed by the Washington trip training meeting on Feb. 2.

Nikos delivered a Washington update prepared by Carole McGuire who was not able to attend:

- The two month delay in sequestration is a welcome sign and one that may portend a much better solution for research and education funding; however, the now smaller reductions would have to be made in an even more compressed seven month timeframe if they were to go into effect.
- Even if it is eventually averted, the overall prospect of sequestration continues to cast a long shadow over federal agencies and their risk tolerance for new initiatives as they must manage programs as if the sequestration could go into effect starting in March.
- Future debt ceiling discussions coming up in February as well as the new spending caps (reduced by \$4 billion in FY 2013) will further complicate final FY 2013 appropriations negotiations. Furthermore, even if sequestration is not used as a tool, discretionary spending programs will remain “on the table” to the extent that agreements cannot be reached on other mandatory spending.
- The tax extensions (e.g. charitable IRA rollover, R&D tax credit, and section 127 for graduate assistance) are all welcome signs that higher education remains a priority; however, the Obama Administration is still expected to push for a limit in deductions or other modifications affecting the university model in forthcoming tax reform discussions.

News from the Office of Communication – Katie Yurkewicz

Katie presented a series of materials that are available for use during the Washington visit. The centerpiece is the “Accelerating National Innovation” brochure, which needs to be updated. Updates need to be made by Feb. 21 so brochures can be printed and shipped out. The map of institutions was discussed extensively and several people offered to help. Nikos, Breese, Katie and representatives from SLUO and USLUO will go over changes.

A new version of Symmetry will be available in February. Symmetry is only published in print twice a year. Katie went through the preliminary table of contents which essentially covers the whole field.

Katie has been considering how to have an event at the Users Meeting as a farewell to Director Pier Oddone and welcome to the new Director, if he/she will have been chosen by then. There was discussion on how to put such event in and how to coordinate it with the conventional state of the laboratory talk that the director typically gives at the Users Meeting.

Preparations for the Washington Trip – Barb Book

Barb has reserved 40 rooms at Best Western – Georgetown for Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and 20 for Thursday night. There will be a continental breakfast on Wednesday morning at URA headquarters. At that breakfast, rulers will need to be assembled into the folders. Travel authorizations and reservations should be made as soon as people know they will be attending. Barb went over many of the details and can be consulted if questions arise.

Government Relations & Local Government Subcommittee – Breese Quinn

Preparations for the Washington visit are in process. Connection files are being collected – those from UEC, FSPA, and guests have already been collected. Five have been collected from USLUO, only one from SLUO. Breese is in contact with USLUO and SLUO for the remaining files as it bears strongly on who is recruited to go along.

Lee discussed the various flyers that will be included in the folders for the Washington visit. Lee advocated for pruning the many possibilities to focus on a few central items, as the available time in the offices can be quite short. There was some discussion on how to tailor the material for specific offices. Breese, Nikos, and the other institutional reps will go over how to update the one-pager and other central material.

Breese went over a preliminary agenda for the preparatory meeting. The preparation is organized in three parts: a few speakers to provide perspective on the issues, a few speakers on the mechanics and details of the visit, and a period of role-playing. There was discussion on what other possible speakers may be useful for preparation. Breese will prepare some role-playing examples/scripts.

Users Meeting Subcommittee – Greg Snow

The ILC 2-hr “launch event” is presently penciled in on the end of the first day. There was some further discussion on how the ILC event presentations can fit together with the Users Meeting program. Greg went over the proposed ILC talks, the titles of which are still in very early draft form.

There was a poll about potential public speakers for the Users Meeting. Greg identified several highly-rated candidates, and noted that a few of those who won't be chosen for the public talk could give talks during other Users Meeting program slots. Greg will coordinate with the appropriate people to send out invitations.

The poster needs to be developed, but it is contingent on understanding what the agenda is. Greg will be in contact with subcommittee members over task assignments for the meeting.

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

The discussion started with the issue of sequestration. Sequestration was delayed two months by the fiscal cliff legislation. The consequences of this are not clear, but the more it is delayed, the less likely it is to be applied at full strength since the cuts would have to be absorbed over a small fraction of the year. Fermilab has been asked to do a planning exercise for a 2-3% cut on top of the 8% cut. The basis may be higher if a continuing resolution is extended for the entire year.

The LBNO issue was raised and the fact that Finland, which was the preferred site, declined to host the detector. However, there are seven other candidate sites, so discussions are still open. In any case, it would be very advantageous for European institutions to join LBNE to help move the detector underground and build a near side detector. DOE continues to be supportive on both domestic and foreign matters related to LBNE, increasing their efforts recently.

There was a discussion on Lab finances, with NOvA being the largest issue. NOvA is in a state where it essentially has no contingency. It is not a technical issue, and the total cost overrun is small, proportionally, but DOE expects projects not to surpass their projected costs. Accelerator startup may be delayed somewhat to save money on power and to avoid the costs of hurrying construction.

DOE – Office of Science has been tasked to list the projects and facilities it has on the books and prioritize them. In turn, the Office of Science has asked their FACA committees, including HEPAP, to provide a list of facilities and characterize them. This list would go to the Office of Science and the Office of Science would prioritize the projects relative to each other. Bill Brinkman will provide the final level of evaluation and prioritization.

IARC is well under construction and is anticipated to be complete toward the end of 2013. There are several companies who are interested in using the new center quickly. The model will start as work-for-others, but will ideally evolve into a user facility. If so,

that community may need to be integrated into the users organization.

Other items are doing well: NOvA is planning to put up its 6th block soon. MicroBooNE is moving ahead. DECam is preparing for its run. The proposed BigBOSS and DESpec projects have been joined under the leadership of Mike Levi of LBNL. PXIE and MAP reviews are coming up and are anticipated to go well. Pier was recently at DOE to support the ASTA proposal.

Next UEC meeting: February 1, noon-4pm

Scribe: Bob Zwaska