

Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for December 11, 2015

The meeting, chaired by Bill Louis, began at 8:30. Jesus Orduna, Thomas Strauss, Minerba Betancourt, Louise Suter, Sarah Lockwitz, Fernanda Garcia, Kurt Riesselmann, Mateus Carneiro, Robert Fine, Eric Prebys, Kim Pearce, Sebastian Aderhold, Elena Gramellini, Cindy Joe, Griselda Lopez, Georgia Karagiorgi, and Linda Spentzouris attended the meeting. Sergei Nagaitsev was also present, representing the Directorate.

Overview

Bill Louis gave the chair report with some updates on Fermilab improvement projects. The projection is that the User's Office move will be done before the end of this fiscal year. The VISA office will be in the same new space as the User's Office. The functionality of some of the men's bathrooms in the high rise is still an issue. The User's Center improvements have been delayed due to limited funding. The goal for completion of the parking lot construction near the high rise is that it be wrapped up before the holidays. The planned dates of the next UEC meetings are January 22nd, February 26th, and then a partial meeting on March 11th to finish preparations for the DC trip. All Fermilab email accounts will be upgraded, providing a new 50 GB limit for storage. Nobody's email address will change as a result, only the details of the login procedure. Efforts continue on delineating the Fermilab ID policy, both to make it consistent with DOE expectations, and to remove unnecessary obstacles for the users.

Report from the Directorate

The national budget is now under a continuing resolution, but it is still expected that there will be a budget agreement before the holidays. (Note that a budget agreement was reached after the UEC meeting.) There is a big push to get money for the DUNE project into the President's 2017 budget. There was an Office of Science independent project review of LBNF/DUNE in early December to evaluate the Project's readiness for approval of Critical Decision CD-3A, approval of initial far site construction. The successful approval of CD-3A (even

before CD-2) has helped get the request for funding on the fast track, by supporting the bid for construction money. If all goes well, construction could start in 2019. The hope is to get \$300M, and that the President's budget will allow room for this request. Lab management will visit the DOE in early March, and presumably the President's budget will have been released by then. It is important that the funding requests made in early March by lab management and made later in March during the UEC trip are consistent, so that DOE, Congress, and OMB hear the same thing.

Recently, senior management attended a successful workshop on risk management coordinated by Erik Gottschalk. When a formal, updated document becomes available, it will be given to the UEC to read.

Sergei responded to the Chair's question asking how the PIP-I, PIP-II, and PIP-III campaigns are going. Currently PIP-I is the focus, because it aims to provide immediate improvement in the proton flux and machine reliability for the experiments. During the shutdown, many outdated pieces of equipment are being replaced. The Booster RF cavities are currently being refurbished; but new cavities are being designed which will be capable of 20 Hz operation. The goal is to install the new cavities before FY19. Booster could run at 15 Hz with updated cavities. Since NOvA requires 9 Hz operation, this leaves 6 pulses available for other facilities such as the muon campus and the short baseline neutrino experiments. The beam allocation to various users must, as always, be negotiated with the program planning office. The muon campus commissioning is scheduled for March, FY17. It is desirable to deliver some beam to the g-2 experiment before the summer shutdown in 2017.

PIP-II received CD-0 approval in November. This is an acknowledgement that FNAL needs to improve its infrastructure. There is limited funding of \$20M for PIP-II this year. PIP-II encompasses the replacement of the linac with a new SRF linac that provides a higher injection energy for Booster. Booster, in turn, must be upgraded to accommodate the new injection energy, as well as to become capable of 20 Hz operation. Some upgrades are also required in the MI to deal with

higher proton flux. Ultimately, the goal is to deliver 1.2 MW to the LBNF target. There will also be more beam for the short baseline program. The number of protons per bucket will increase from about $4E12$ to about $7E12$ per bucket.

PIP-III is currently an unstructured R&D campaign, but work is being done to formalize it by negotiating with DOE. There are several potential schemes on the table now, such as replacing the Booster.

Report from Washington

Ben Kallen of Lewis-Burke Associates reported on the news from Washington.

The FY2016 budget has not passed yet, and it was supposed to have been by today. (Note that the budget was passed after the UEC meeting.) The budget numbers in the appropriations bill are set; it is the policy riders that are the problem. (These deal with, for example, what to do about Syrian refugees, environmental issues such as whether to lift the ban on oil exports, or whether to remove renewable energy tax credits.) There has only been a continuing resolution for 5 days, so there is no call for pessimism yet. The budget allocation for HEP is not yet known. (Note that after the UEC meeting, the HEP budget for FY2016 was announced to be \$795M, \$19M above the House mark and \$7M above the Senate mark. A net change of +3.8% wrt 2015.) The expectation is that the Office of Science should do OK, but it is unknown how that will break down for individual programs. The conservative faction of the House wants to push negotiations into January so that they can get more favorable policy riders, but so far the leadership is cooperating to get the budget negotiations finished. The White House won't sign another continuing resolution going into January; nobody wants the budget process to drag on. After this report, the UEC invited Ben Kallen and Leland Cogliani to the upcoming Jan 22nd planning meeting.

User's Meeting Sub-Committee

Thomas Strauss reported on the Users Meeting activities. The plan is to rent easels from M&M conference services, so as to have a uniform look

for the poster session. There is still no public speaker. The webpage and Indico Templates for 2016 are now on line. Some vendors have already accepted the offer to have a display at the meeting, and others have expressed interest. The sub-committee is planning for 550 attendees (50 more than last year), and has calculated the required budget to be \$35K. However, the Directorate has asked us to stay below \$22K. The organizers of Festa Italiana, who have managed to get money from another channel, have provided some relief. The estimated budget is now \$25K with that change, as well as some other smaller cuts.

Government Relations Sub-Committee

Jesus reported on the status of preparations for the DC trip. The trip dates are March 16th through 18th. All the Information about the trip is available through the wiki. He instructed people to use the guest account if they forgot their password, and to reset their password. People should check that the information listed for them is correct. The materials on the packet for last trip are linked on the “Documents for the folders > 2015” in the wiki, so people can start getting familiar with them, as there will be some overlap between these and what we will actually bring with us in March. Last year, there was more coverage of offices in general than previous years, but worse coverage of the Appropriations committee members. Last year there were 46 people on the trip. Perhaps there will be 50 people coming on the trip this year; the FSPA is larger, there will be some additional travelers who are invited, and there will be contest winners. The contest is during the USLUA meeting, and the speakers of the best ten minute talks get to go on the DC trip. On Jan 22nd people will be briefed on all aspects of the trip. The primary and secondary responsibilities will be reviewed. The hotel has been secured, and it will be the same as last year.

There was some discussion of how to approach the DC trip. Someone commented that there will be a National Laboratory Science Day DC on March 15 and 16th, so we should be aware of that. Maybe we could put something in the packet about it? Joe Lykken is going to attend the event, so we could talk to him in about it in January. If we would like a

group identifier, it cannot be supplied by FNAL. The only possible I.D. they can provide is a folder label on the packet. People were of the opinion that having a group pin would be helpful. Perhaps there could be a competition for a button design. Donations would have to be requested to cover their cost, but it should be pretty reasonable.

Quality of Life Sub-Committee

Fabio is preparing a report on the housing survey, which will be sent to the Directorate. Efforts are still being made to improve the water quality in the village, especially by having one central filtering machine where people could fill up their containers. Jack has contacted a possible new vendor, and this may be a chance to renovate all of the vending area. There is no way to get fitted sheets, because they are not used by other large organizations, and so are not available. It may be possible to get bigger sheets. Griselda is looking into corporate housing, but it would be very helpful if she knew how many people do not get housing in the village that requested it. This information is needed to enable specific enquiries from commercial outfits. She would like a number of people, rather than a percentage of people, that are typically not able to get housing.

Jemila Adetunji and TJ Sarlina, who are on the badging committee, came to the UEC meeting to get some feedback on what difficulties users have with the current badging system. The badging committee will be shaping a new badging policy. The office of Jemila and TJ is on WH7NE. Jemila, who discussed the effort to resolve badging issues, would like to understand the current process. The goal is to get from the current state to where we as a community would like to be. The UEC discussed the way badging is done currently, speculated on possible improvements, and described some of the current problems. Jemila will keep us in the loop and continue soliciting our feedback.

An issue regarding the schools attended by children living on site was raised. Apparently, residents of the village send their kids to West Chicago schools, while residents on the southern part of the Fermilab site send their kids to Naperville schools. The question came up as to

whether it would be possible to extend the options for people on site, allowing them to choose what schools their children would attend. Some schools are better than others, and the users would like to be able to select accordingly. However, it was pointed out that this cannot be done, because where children go to school depends on how school districts are zoned, which is not something Fermilab has control over.

Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association report

An overview of past, present, and future activities was given. The FSPA is working with the communications office to create an official FSPA logo. One option would be to have an official co-branded logo with Fermilab, as has been done for IARC. There is a gain from having the official Fermilab logo as part of the brand, but this also limits options for the logo, as there are specific graphics standards imposed with the use of the Fermilab logo. Besides the logo investigation, work is being done to create an FSPA one page hand-out for networking. The text would communicate the basics of what the FSPA is all about. USLUA is starting a similar organization to the FSPA, and the organizers have been in communication with FSPA to discuss how it is structured. New Perspectives is being boosted by more involvement of the conference office, which is taking some of the load off the preparation effort. The poster has been finalized after tallying the votes of the 150 participants who voted on the poster selection. FSPA is thinking about what sort of special session to have at the end of the day next June. Last year the career panel was successful. Better advertisement is a goal moving forward. Last year there were 100-150 participants, drawn from the 800 students and postdocs at Fermilab. New FSPA officer MCR operator Cindy Joe was introduced. The switch of FSPA emphasis from 'students and postdocs' to 'young researchers' is reflected in the tag line for New Perspectives, 'A conference for young researchers'.

The meeting was adjourned.