

## **Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for October 9, 2015**

The meeting, chaired by Bill Louis, began at 8:30. Jesus Orduna, Thomas Strauss, Ed Kearns, Minerba Betancourt, Louise Suter, Sarah Lockwitz, Bill Louis, Fernanda Garcia, Kurt Riesselmann, Mateus Carneiro, Robert Fine, Eric Prebys, Kim Pearce, Sebastian Aderhold, Elena Gramellini, Nitin Yadev, and Linda Spentzouris attended the meeting. Nigel Lockyer and Timothy Meyer were also present, representing the Directorate. Georgia Karagiorgi attended by phone.

### **Overview**

Bill Louis gave the chair report. He reviewed who is on each committee. Jesus Orduna and Louise Suter are chair and deputy chair of the Government Relations subcommittee. Thomas Strauss and Sarah Lockwitz are chair and deputy chair of the User's Meeting subcommittee. Fabio Happacher and Minerba Betancourt are chair and deputy chair of the Quality of Life subcommittee. In the future, FSPA members and Griselda Lopez will be added to the UEC mailing list ([uec@fnal.gov](mailto:uec@fnal.gov)). Griselda has a standing invitation to attend all UEC meetings. The next UEC meetings are scheduled for Friday, November 6 and then Friday December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Report from the Directorate**

Tim Meyer reported. He responded to the report of complaints that a number of bathrooms in Wilson Hall are currently unavailable, saying that he will look into this issue. There is a CD0 for Illinois Accelerator Research Center (IARC), but the proposed hostel is next on the list, so people can start thinking about how it should be done. The goal is to double the bed capacity on site. Having nice common space seems to be key. Since the hostel will be located near Wilson Hall, a car would not be needed. Experiments with current food options in Wilson Hall are being considered to find out what could work to serve the hostel. Potentially, there could also be an additional restaurant added later. The daily cost of staying at the hostel needs to be determined, but it might be in the 50 to 100 dollar range. The committee pointed out that if it is too expensive, people might not want to stay there. Perhaps there could be lower rates for longer stays.

The User's Center renovation has ten phases. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase starts this fall and should be done by next summer; this is to create a more aesthetic eating space that is connected to the outside patio. Some of game tables are moving into the Chez Leon space, but the future location of the Ping Pong table is unknown. It is uncertain how long the games will be unavailable; the aim is to finish by summer. The bar should still be accessible during the User's Center dining room upgrade. The buffalo head will be relocated. Tim also gave an update on Wilson Hall renovations. Work will be starting on the new User's Office area in the fall. Other improvements will continue. There are now new waste cans by the elevators, for example.

The question was raised as to whether we wish to have an official code of conduct that applies to all people who are on site. CERN has an eight-page brochure explaining their code of conduct. It could be useful as something to point to when someone does

something bad. You could more easily penalize an action if it violates the code of conduct.

Nigel made some remarks about the national budget. The HEP budget is up 22M on the Senate side, and up by 10M on the House side. We are telling Congress that we want the Senate mark. Everything under the HEP total, such as the details on how it will be distributed, are not worth talking about yet. Even if budget does go up, that doesn't mean the Fermilab allocation will go up. While Fermilab should request what is needed for our own budget within HEP, we also have to make sure the other labs are doing Okay.

### **Report from Washington**

Leland Cogliani of Lewis-Burke Associates reported on the news from Washington. During the last hours on the last day that government funding was set to expire, the House and Senate passed a continuing resolution. This was a clean continuing resolution; no changes were made to the funding levels of fiscal 2015. It came as a surprise that Kevin McCarthy withdrew his name from the race to replace John Boehner as House Speaker. There is speculation on whom the new Speaker will be; the top contenders are Jason Chaffetz (Utah), Steve Scalise (Louisiana), and the more moderate Charlie Dent (Pennsylvania). The Republican leadership is disjointed, which puts government funding decisions at risk. The debt ceiling is an issue; we may default on our debts instead of compromising. A budget deal is somewhat promising; there is optimism on reaching a deal through meetings on the Hill with Boehner, McConnell, and the President on how to structure a budget discussion. The Senate request for HEP, 22M higher than the previous budget, matches the President's request, with more money going to projects and less to basic research. The request on the House side is less, with a 10M increase over the previous budget.

If there is no budget deal, there will be no increases to any programs. A budget deal would mean we would try to increase basic research and money for R&D, then later the UEC could advocate for more money to high energy physics funding. HEP does have supporters in Congress. Senators Durbin and Kirk are on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator Rounds from South Dakota is a strong supporter of the neutrino program. Representative Bill Foster is always supportive of Fermilab. Work could be done to try and get support from the Minnesota delegation, since their constituency is involved with NOvA. The President's 2016 request for LBNE was 20M, and he encouraged the House and Senate to increase their appropriations. The House went up to 22M, and the Senate to 30M including 10M for the expansion of the caverns in South Dakota. The Senate level is needed to keep construction on schedule.

### **Fermilab 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Kurt Riesselmann discussed planning for the Fermilab 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2017. There are twenty people across the lab on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee, including Fernanda who represents the UEC and the accelerator science community. It would be good to also have an FSPA representative on the committee. The anniversary will be commemorated throughout 2017, noting some key dates from history such as the selection of the town of Weston for the site (fifty years ago in December 2016) and the

start of operations (fifty years ago in June 2017).

A huge open house is being planned, aiming to draw twenty thousand people. Currently June is favored for the celebration, and upon discussion, the UEC agreed that tacking a few days onto the end of the User's Meeting for the open house made sense, using Friday for scientific events and Saturday for more public events. People who want to attend both events could then travel only once. The open house could be used to strengthen ties to the city of Chicago. Perhaps the Mayor of Chicago could be persuaded to visit. Also, there could be outreach activities in the city; for example, 'Ask a Scientist' tables could be set up in Grant Park and elsewhere. Suggestions as to how to make 2017 special, including enhancements to the User's Meeting, are requested, so please contact Kurt or Fernanda with your suggestions. For example, should there be public lectures all week? How can retirees, alumni, and all the contributors to the science programs be encouraged to attend? The budget is not huge, however, so this is a constraint. Getting Porta Potties and needed supplies for the open house will use a large portion of the budget. There will likely be five to ten locations for tours. In 1997 there were 663 people working the open house. This time help will also be needed to run the tours and so forth, so hopefully users, scientists, and students, will volunteer. It is desirable to help users get more recognition from their home institutions, so beautiful posters commemorating the event could be made available to take back and post there. A VIP night or dinner has been suggested. Another idea was to have a wall dedicated to a list of the names of all the users and institutions that have been at Fermilab as an attraction. Also, it was proposed to let DOE know about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, perhaps providing a poster or other materials.

### **User's Meeting Sub-Committee**

Thomas Strauss reported on User's Meeting activities. Last year attendance at the User's Meeting was low, and indications are that the main reason is that fewer FNAL employees registered for the meeting. It was proposed that, as was done in the past, drink tickets be made available only to those people who register as an encouragement to register. It is time to decide on a picture for the User's Meeting poster. It can't be too good, or the posters get stolen. Save the date: the meeting is scheduled for June 14-16. Festa Italiana will be Tuesday June 14th. The URA thesis award will be given on Wednesday June 15th. The vendor exhibition is approved, with 24 spots available. The exhibitions will be self-financed by the vendors. Only direct producers will be eligible, no resellers.

Thomas presented a list of potential vendors to the UEC, and asked for other suggestions. It might be of interest to select vendors who have contributed parts or materials for experiments at Fermilab, and to underline their connection to the experiment. An initial draft of the physical layout for the meeting was presented. The committee commented that it is desirable to have more space for posters. The second floor could be dedicated to posters, for example. The VIP dinner will probably be located in WH1E.

### **Government Relations Sub-Committee**

Jesus Orduna has begun planning for next spring's visit to Washington DC. Everyone on the UEC should log on to the wiki, or if you are a new user, request an account: <http://www.fermilab-uec.org/mediaWiki/index.php?title=DC2015>. All information for the DC trip will be posted there. UEC and FSPA members, please send all requested

information for the business cards to Kim Pearce as soon as possible. The Government relations subcommittee would like an FSPA person to join us, since FSPA members also go on the DC trip. The other participating users organizations need to be contacted, including the SLAC Users Organization (SLUO) and the US LHC Users Organization (USLUO). LBNL would also like to join the effort; Natalie Roe should be contacted regarding this matter. Congress has not turned over since last year, so that will make it easier to update the connection files used to match up visitors to congressional offices. Engaged, interested staffers usually attend the meetings; the Representatives are only occasionally there. As was done last year, it will be important for everyone to adhere to an HEP Global Message. The DC trip duration is two to three days for most people, with five to eight meetings per day per person. Two people, a primary and a secondary, are present at each meeting. The primaries must know whom they will be visiting a few months before the trip so that they can contact the appropriate offices to make appointments. A packet will be supplied for each visit containing, among other things, a one page document summarizing our message. The one pager is very helpful as a referral during the meetings. There is lots of walking (wear comfortable shoes, or have a change of shoes) but it is a rewarding week and lots of fun. The trip dates will be set sometime in November. It was suggested that we have something to unify the look of the group, such as a shoulder bag to carry the packets with the P5 logo on front. It would be good to have some stickers or something like Bill Lee's High Energy Physics label to put on the folders to make them stand out. Other comments were made such as whether we should have an assortment of folders as in the past, or one single booklet containing all the material. There were 400 packets last year; we may want to go up to 450 for next year.

### **Quality of Life Sub-Committee**

Minerba reported for the quality of life subcommittee. There will be a survey for spokespeople about housing /office availability. The survey will include a section for opinions on the desired form of the new hostel. The committee reminds users who arrive after hours to stay in the village and who do not yet have a valid Fermilab ID, to have the guard call the Communications Office to enable site access. The guards will not initiate this, so spokespeople should remind their constituents to make sure the Communications Office has the village housing information and is aware of after hours arrival. It is a goal to always have an updated list of village residents in the Communications Office, but this is not yet automatic. The Housing Office website could have another sentence to tell people how to deal with not being able to get on site (calling the Communications Office) to help propagate that information.

Some new suggestions from the users were made known; such as grass mowing hours are too early near the village houses, and that many cell phone companies don't have good reception at FNAL. Users wondered if there could there be a repeater installed that would cover the village. It was noted that Wi-Fi hot spots are available from the housing office now if needed. The change machines in the village laundry are typically out of change or broken. Perhaps the company providing the change machine could put in one with bigger capacity or put in an additional change machine. Peng Fei of the FSPA was told that an order was placed for a filtered water refill station in the vending area; Jack Hawkins would know the current status. Fitted sheets are not supplied for village beds,

and the sheets that are supplied come off since they are not long enough. Also the kitchen cabinets are old, and although there may be some plans to replace them, it would be good to speed up that schedule.

### **Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association report**

Robert Fine gave the FSPA report. Elections were held 2 weeks ago. For the first time there is an overlap between previous and next term officers in order to maintain momentum and continuity. The overlap also enables new projects to be undertaken. Rob and Mateus will stay on for another year. Also, for the first time one of the officers, Cindy Joe (who is an MCR operator), is not a student or a postdoc. The FSPA is making an effort to reach out to young people at the lab by including people who are not students or postdocs in their organization; for example, computing personnel who are at Fermilab for a few years before continuing on for their Masters degree. There was record-breaking participation at the polls this year, with 154 valid ballots as compared to 74 valid ballots in 2014, and 85 valid ballots in 2013. There is no charter for the FSPA currently, and no consensus was reached as to whether one is needed. Tim Meyer approves the FSPA proposed budget at the beginning of year.

The FSPA takes on the major tasks of facilitating social activities among young persons at the lab; organizing the Halloween party which is a community event; participating in the DC trip with the other user's groups; organizing New Perspectives; and representing the interests of student and postdoc users at the laboratory. Last year saw the accomplishment of sporadic low-key social events; collaboration with NALWO to revise the 'Fermilab Guide to Life' document; organization of the Holi and Chinese New Year Celebrations; investigation of carpool parking spaces; and achievement of an increase in the user email capacity. The ANL/FNAL soccer match organization has been in progress and the match is scheduled to take place on October 17 at 14:00 CT.

FSPA feels that they have a great opportunity for productivity in the coming year, and they are beginning to make plans. They intend to prepare 'how-to' documents for running the FSPA for the benefit of officers in future years. This may be important since it may not always be possible to have overlap of officers as they do this year. FSPA is considering how to better advertise events; clean up their webpages; sponsor more low-key social events; and forge collaborations with other groups such as NALWO, the Italian students organization, and other groups of young researchers near the lab.

### **Campus and planning board**

Thomas reported that the campus planning board has already made some changes, such as the new seating areas in Wilson hall, the new reception desk for public visitors, updated cafeteria tables, and a nicer restroom. Continued upgrades are planned, such as new lighting in the cafeteria area, the new Users Office coming in January, a coffee bar outside the cafeteria, and improvements to the trash receptacle area in cafeteria. Other improvements are being discussed, such as sun shading, and the form of vending. The CDF and D0 trailer areas are gone. One pond will be removed in the proximity of IARC and Wilson Hall. Since Lab 3 in the village is flooded all the time, it will be shut down, and some of the engineers and techs will move up to that area near IARC. The muon

campus work is underway, as well as substation improvements and progress on the near and far detector buildings for Neutrino. There are 90 beds in the village dormitories, and 65 houses and apartments. A systematic way to handle filling empty beds in the village is needed so as to keep full occupancy.

The meeting was adjourned.