



Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for December 16, 2016

The meeting began at 8:30. Attendees were:

UEC: Minerba Betancourt, Frank Chlebana, Sowjanya Gollapinni, Ed Kearns (chair), Georgia Karagiorgi, Sarah Lockwitz, Carrie McGivern, Eric Prebys, Louise Suter,

Tammy Walton, Thomas Strauss

Lewis-Burke: Ben Preis

FSPA: Sebastian Aderhold, Monica Nunez

Users Office: Kim Pearce, Griselda Lopez

Directorate: Nigel Lockyer, Tim Meyer, Hema Ramamoorthi, Stephany Unruh

Communications: Katie Yurkewicz

Chair's Report

Ed Kearns reported. The upcoming meeting of the UEC will be Feb-03, Feb-24, Mar-24, April-21 and May-19. The UEC was asked to nominate a member to the FNAL web advisory committee, a new committee that looks at webpage moderation and resources. As they already have FNAL employees, they would prefer a non-FNAL member to join their quarterly meetings to discuss changes of the FNAL Web Governance Policy. Ed Kearns will join this web committee. There was a discussion on how to improve the new user experience, a comprehensive "What to do" section and links to the service desk will be compiled. Most of the webpage of the UEC is updated, some committees still need to review their content; Ed and Minerba are the site owners and can request the service desk to give editorial rights to each committee's chair.

Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association

Sebastian Aderhold reported. The Thanksgiving Potluck was a big hit with 40 guests, and visitors expressed hope for future similar events around Easter too. The FSPA is engages with Global Services to coordinate events at the Frontier Pub Steering Committee and the Campus Life Working Group. The discussion about New Perspectives will start soon. A future event will be the Chinese New Years celebration.

Government Relations Sub-Committee

Louise Suter reported. The date of the trip will be the week of March 28-29. During that time the budget for FY17 will still be in discussion, while FY18 is not to be expected until much later this year. We requested travel funds similar to last year; the request is under review. We aim to bring a few selected articles from Symmetry Magazine; suggestions on the articles are welcome. Katie Yurkewicz (communication office) and Mike Cooke (DOE) work on a general HEP brochure that can be brought along. Steve Ritz is responsible for the HEP message. The materials will be closely related to the "DOE & NSF plan for HEP" (formerly known as P5), including other user groups and the

DPF (not only Fermi-centric material). Items included could be the P5 one pager, the FNAL benefits to society one page, a DUNE one pager, etc. There will be two training sessions for the trip in February and March, the first focuses on how to communicate and what to expect on the trip, the second is a hands on training for the meetings, parallel session will be held at CERN.

Quality of Life Sub-Committee

Minerba Betancourt reported. The cafeteria survey was sent to Jack Hawkins; further actions are within the responsibility of the housing office. It was suggested to create a Food Service Advisory Committee with a representative from the UEC. We await the answer from TAHER on the survey. In general: critique of the cafeteria should concentrate on moving forward to solutions and comparison with outside vendors. The half portion option was already added, and the daily menu is available on the Fermilab at work page.

The QoL mission statement is being developed to clarify its role and how this committee engages with FSPA, Global Services (aka Users Office) and so on. There will be added ways of communication online as well as a suggestion boxes in key locations. QoL wants to conduct one or two surveys per year to compile a comprehensive overview of services that work well and needed improvements; maybe a good place would be in conjunction with the UAM registration.

There is a Fermilab Campus Life working group. One improvement coming to the village soon will be ZipCars (details are under discussion). We got feedback from the Frontier Pub on their activities like Trivia nights and the holiday parties. External guests have to be aware of the lab open hours, once the lab closes, it is more cumbersome to enter the lab. Maybe the winter public hours can be expanded (currently 6pm, summer 8pm).

Thomas Strauss reported on the latest news from the Campus Facility Planning Board. A push was made towards charging stations for electrical cars. The remaining trailers near D0 will be demolished, they were offered for use but nobody wanted to take them. The horse club has terminated and the barn will be dismantled. Signage at the lab will be improved for the 50th anniversary. The renovations of Wilson Hall 13th floor begin soon, as well as the first stage of the ground floor renovations.

Report from the Directorate

Nigel spoke with the UEC. In the next months about 40K jobs turn over in Washington, D.C. Some of these will be fast changes; some will be under high scrutiny by the congress. A meeting of DOE headquarters and all lab directors with the transition team took place. It was a good discussion, not too detailed but the incoming team is impressed with the breadth of services the national laboratories provide and the past success of the system. The new Secretary of Energy nominee, Rick Perry, will be briefed on what the DOE and national laboratories are doing; our job is to communicate what we do and communicate it well. There will be a lot of new political appointees; the current highest ranked government employee, Steve Binkley, will be acting director for the next months.

It is unclear how the FY17 budget will end up, if it will be a continuing resolution or some pieces, the exact wording will affect what project can start. DUNE has issued an RFP for the CM/GC contractor to design and oversee excavation. Proposals are due soon and the vendor would be selected by mid-spring, somewhat contingent on the FY2017 funding outlook. The ProtoDUNEs are well underway, with the Dual Phase being filled in January. SPT-3G (South Pole Telescope, third generation) will see first light at the South Pole in January, DES is doing very well in their current run, SBN is doing well, there is power in the FD building and ICARUS modules are expected in April. Mu2e has beneficial occupancy, g-2 expects first beam in April and hopes to collect enough data until the end of year to rival the previous measurement. Keeping in mind that the P5 plan is now called the DOE and NSF plan, we are beginning preparation for the next "P5" summit. Tim Meyer reported on the 50 year anniversary plans: it will be a steady topic within the lab and we hope to engage the surrounding communities. Tim and Joe will handle summer housing requests, expect an announcement in early 2017. The process will be presented during the next UEC meeting. A request was made by the UEC to equip the village entrance with badge reading device as done on the Wilson Street gate, this would allow easy access for users during off hours (for shifts and emergency purposes).

Report from the Outreach Sub-Committee

Sowjanya Gollapinni reported. The committee lacks a deputy. Sowjanya and Minerba met with several lab stakeholders like Spencer Pesaro (Education Office) and Sandra Charles (Diversity & Inclusion office). They welcome and look forward to work with the UEC. They hope to improve the pool of volunteers for outreach and educational activities and make opportunities more visible to users and employees. The goal is to create a volunteers database and send outreach opportunities to an email list of volunteers. The next event will be a My Brother's Keeper event, a career event for high school students.

Eric Prebys: The search is ongoing for a Saturday Morning Physics leader from within the lab community; several names were mentioned.

Report from the Users Office

Jemila Adetunji reported previously about visitors and badges, particularly foreign nationals. Fermilab is responding to clarified instructions and pressure from DOE for improvements to registering visitors, but it is acknowledged that instructions crafted for a closed lab, such as Argonne or BNL, where entry is controlled at the gate, may not readily apply to an open lab such as Fermilab. Continued engagement with the UEC, with Eric as contact, is suggested to combine the needs of the DOE and wants of the user community.

Report from Washington

Ben Price from Lewis-Burke reported. There is continued congressional support for Office of Science - no major changes in members and staff.

- In the Illinois delegation: Democratic Rep. Tammy Duckworth defeated Senator Mark Kirk in their Senate race. Democrat Raja Krishnamoorthi will replace Rep. Duckworth in the House, and Brad Schneider retook the 10th District from Republican Bob Dold.

- In the Energy and Water Appropriations subcommittees, on both the House and Senate, leadership is expected to remain the same, with Senator Lamar Alexander and Senator Diane Feinstein in the Senate, and Rep. Mike Simpson and Rep. Marcy Kaptur in the House
- Steve Binkley, Deputy Director for the Office of Science and former director of the ASCR program, is expected to be acting Director of the Office of Science until President-elect Trump nominates a successor to Cherry Murray. This could be months or more.
- The December 9 continuing resolution (CR) expired, but Congress passed, and the President signed, another CR lasting through April 28. As this expiration date is halfway through fiscal year 2017, it is likely that Congress will pass another CR lasting through the end of FY17. However, there is work on an “anomaly” for the HEP base budget, meaning increased spending, in order to support LBNF. Such anomalies are rare, but were included in the current CR, for example, to support emergency aid to Flint, MI, opioid abuse, and the Cancer Moonshot at NIH.
- A compromise version of the bill between the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation committee’s version of the America Innovation and Competitiveness Act and the House-passed version of the America COMPETES bill was passed by both chambers of Congress, with the House passing it on December 16 through unanimous consent. As it is a compromise version, it leaves out authorized funding levels for NSF, DOE, and NIST. However, there is one provision of relevance to DOE, Section 106, which directs the Physical Sciences subcommittee on the National Science and Technology Council to coordinate research priorities in High Energy Physics (including underground science, neutrino research, dark energy, and dark matter). In addition, the subcommittee is directed to coordinate on Radiation Biology and Fusion Energy Sciences.
- The April FRA board meeting will take place in April in Washington, DC, in order to highlight the Fermilab 50th anniversary and raise the LBNF/DUNE profile with Members of Congress.

User Meeting Sub-Committee & 50th anniversary

Sarah Lockwitz reported on the UAM. The schedule of the UAM week is likely as follows: Tuesday, New Perspectives and Festa Italiana, Wednesday the 50th anniversary symposium and a dinner reception, Thursday the UAM with vendor exhibition and a possible small key reception for the poster session. Micheal Branigan will design the poster for the UAM and 50th year symposium. A meeting with the conference office for the budget took place and a extensive to-do list was compiled. The banquet is the most expensive item. As space is limited, we have to keep a cocktail party type reception for the up to 900 attendees of the symposium. Up to 40 posters can be on display on the second floor crossover on Thursday, the idea to have a chips and dips + beer style reception was presented. A question discussed at the UEC meeting was a possible fee for accompanying persons at the dinner and how to handle walk-in registration due to the size restriction on the event.

Louise Suter reported on the 50th anniversary planning. The branding and 50year webpage are online: <http://50.fnal.gov/>. A big open house is planned with public parking near the dog area, and Hop-on/Hop-off shuttle bus service across the site for the general public. Scientists at the station will present highlights of the laboratory. Several parties and events are planned throughout the year; look at the 50th anniversary calendar. For the symposium a speaker's list was reviewed and ordered by the directorate.

Minutes drafted and signed by Thomas Strauss and Ed Kearns