



Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for November 11, 2016

The meeting began at 8:30. Attendees were: UEC: Minerba Betancourt, Frank Chlebana, Sowjanya Gollapinni, Ed Kearns (chair), Georgia Karagiorgi (remote), Carrie McGivern, Eric Prebys, Louise Suter, Tammy Walton, Joseph Zenamo, Thomas Strauss; FSPA: Sebastian Aderhold, Rui An, Wes Gohn, Kanika Sachdev; Users Office: Kim Pearce, Griselda Lopez; Directorate: Nigel Lockyer, Joe Lykken, Stephany Unruh; Communications: Kurt Riesselmann

Report from the Directorate

Nigel spoke with the UEC. He reminds us to stay with the facts, Fermilab is the prime national accelerator laboratory in the US delivering top of the class results. There are changes expected at DOE where Pat Dehmer is retiring and senior appointees such as Ernie Moniz and Cherry Murray will rotate out. Until there is a new secretary of energy, the director of science or undersecretary will be of utmost importance. The P5 plan, also now referred to as the DOE plan for scientific results, is still the roadmap. The proposed infrastructure investments might benefit HEP if they include updates to DOE facilities.

On the Fermilab news side: there is an upcoming PIP-II review with colleagues and government observers from India. Italy will join the meeting; there is hope that INFN might join the project. The current PAC meeting focuses on the new proposal process and axion searches. G-2 is in the final push towards commissioning, the focus is to stay on time and budget. The IER has CD-1 and the building is the number two priority within the DOE, if the December 9 budget passes the building is approved with ground breaking expected in FY18. DUNE is doing well and LBNF is moving along. Mu2e will get beneficial occupancy of their building soon. The water service for visitors in the village was updated, and feedback is positive. The Frontier Pub got feedback; Stephany is the main lead person within the directorate. Business is better than a year ago, and the focus is to test new ideas to have more events, suggestions from the community are welcome. The goal is to create a family friendly environment. It is allowed to bring friends from outside the laboratory to the User Center, as it is in the public area. The UEC requested ease of access for meeting space reservations at the User Center.

Report from Washington

Lewis-Burke did not call in to this meeting, but plan to call in to the next one in December.

Chair's Report

The subcommittee assignments were finalized (see the UEC web site). The chairs and deputy chairs are: Government relations: Louise Suter and Carrie McGivern; Outreach:

Sowjanya Gollapinni and Minerba Betancourt; Quality of Life: Mineba Betancourt and Frank Chlebana; Users Meeting: Sarah Lockwitz and Tammy Walton. Thomas Strauss kindly agreed to be secretary. The webpages of the UEC are in need of updating. Each subcommittee chair is in charge of their subpage and can solicit help. Some external links need to be changed to reflect the new home of FSPA and changes to the Fermilab webpages in the past 12 months.

Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association

Sebastian Aderhold reported. The first events of the new (2016-) committee were a success; the turnout at the soccer tournament was larger for players than last year, although the number of spectators dropped; going forward, an earlier time in the year will be considered. The Halloween party was well attended with astonishing costumes and carved pumpkins. The NSBP meeting at Fermilab gave the committee tools to organize outreach and career events and how to communicate with relevant players.

Government Relations Sub-Committee

Louise Suter reported. The Wiki hosting the trip information is currently under check for updates to allow new users to join, and to ensure a backup history. The process to generate connection files to assign secondaries and primaries could be optimized. Input from Leland Colglioni is needed to assign a trip date. Due to the newly elected government, a date in March might be too early, April trips are usually considered as too late. The subcommittee met with Katie Yurkewicz from the Office of Communications regarding the contents of materials to bring on the DC trip; this is an ongoing topic with a variety of ideas. There was a meeting with SLUO and USLHC, our partners for the trip, in order to have good communications. There was also a meeting with FSPA to welcome their participation in DC trip planning.

There was a specific request from “Young DUNE” to have representation for the DC trip. The UEC discussed the request, and concluded that due to numerous such groups, Young NOvA, Young T2K and so on, formal representation would become unwieldy, and would stretch the limited budget of the FRA, That being said, the DC Trip group routinely reaches out to augment their team and can consider these “Young Experiment” organizations as a resource.

Quality of Life Sub-Committee

Minerba Betancourt reported. Issues with cleaning schedules and extra restroom supplies have been addressed. There was an extensive discussion of office space issues. A working group has been started to look into office space issues, including collecting statistics, providing a survey etc. There seems to be an overly restrict regime for office space and furniture setup at IARC that is irritating to some users, such as “No posters on the walls”. The committee wants to define the role and scope of this effort to avoid duplication, respect boundaries, and cooperate with key players to ensure the user community is represented.

A goal for QoL subcommittee is to evaluate how one measures success and how to advertise available options. The webpage will be updated to have more content;

feedback/suggestion boxes at key locations throughout the laboratory were suggested. The new Fermilab App might allow a direct support for village residents and direct specific request to the right channel. Minerba also reported on the cafeteria survey. This survey was sent to a subset of Fermilab users, but that does not include Fermilab scientists, for example. The results were presented to the directorate. Minerba will summarize the results and hopes to share the results with the vendor soon.

Report from the Outreach Sub-Committee

The committee was re-established and initial discussion with various groups to increase STEM efforts and diversity are foreseen. Eric Prebys reported on Saturday Morning Physics; this program is in transition due to a change in leadership. The stewardship by Roger Dixon and Erik Ramberg was commended. A search for a senior lab scientist to continue that stewardship is ongoing. Prebys encouraged the Lederman fellows to take a more active role in the program. The format is under review, and the new program director will have a large influence. The official status of the program is unclear, it is listed as supported by Friends of Fermilab, yet never requested any resources, which might be needed in the future.

Report from the Users Office

Jemila Adetunji reported last time about visitors and badges, particularly foreign nationals. The Users Office is responding to DOE instructions for 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 lead by Eric as contact is suggested to combine the needs of the DOE and wants of the user community.

User Meeting Sub-Committee

Thomas Strauss reported. The Users Meeting and FSPA New Perspectives Conference will run in conjunction with a Fermilab 50th Anniversary celebration. There is not much news on the organization, as reported previously the conference office was pre-occupied with ongoing workshops until mid-November. We expect more progress here going forward and look forward to the interaction with them. The Young Scientist poster session will take place during the week of the User Meeting; the specifics have to be decided upon budget and available space. New Perspectives planners are evaluating the options of a condensed schedule versus a full two-day meeting. The 50-year symposium chair, Louise Suter, reported on the current status, after an initial meeting they have collected a list of Keynote speakers to attract a large audience and represent the history and future of Fermilab. An event manager, Angela has joined the larger 50-anniversary team and will support not only the symposium but all other events around the anniversary like the open house with expected 20,000 attendees or the birthday party. Fermilab Archivist Valerie Higgins is part of the symposium team to help highlight past events. The story about the city of Weston was shared: (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weston,_DuPage_County,_Illinois). The communication office will be heavily involved as well and we expect a large media coverage.

Minutes signed by Thomas Strauss and Ed Kearns