



## **Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for April 21, 2017**

The meeting began at 8:30. Attendees were:

UEC: Minerba Betancourt, Sowjanya Gollapinni, Sarah Lockwitz, Ed Kearns (chair), Georgia Karagiorgi, Carrie McGivern, Eric Prebys, Louise Suter, Tammy Walton, Thomas Strauss, Joseph Zennamo

Lewis-Burke: Ben Preis, Leland Cogliani

FSPA: Sebastian Aderhold, Wes Grange

Users Office: Griselda Lopez

Directorate: Joe Lykken, Tim Meyer, Hema Ramamoorthi, Stephany Unruh, Maura Barone

Communication Office: Katie Yurkewicz

### **Chair's Report**

Ed reported. The UEC has a 10 minute time slot at the Users Meeting, it was discussed what should be presented in that time.

Announcement on behalf of R. Wilson (Colorado State):

Candidate nominations are sought for the APS Henry Primakoff Award for Early Career Particle Physics (within 7 years of Ph.D. allowing for career breaks). The deadline is May 15, 2017. Further details can be found at:

<https://www.aps.org/programs/honors/awards/primakoff.cfm>

They are especially eager to see nominations for qualified women and members of underrepresented minority groups.

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

<https://indico.fnal.gov/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=13745>

New Perspectives is approaching, the UEC meeting was on the abstract deadline day, and the numbers of submission increased rapidly during the meeting. An Easter potluck with 45 attendees was successfully held in the village. The next planned event is a badminton tournament.

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

Louise reported. 55 persons attended the Trip to DC. 355 meeting with representative offices had been setup, an additional 65 office declined for in person meetings, but we delivered information packages. Several pie charts were presented to analyze the meetings and demographics. The NSF and DOE 'Dear Colleague' letters have bi-partisan

support. The budget situation remains unknown<sup>1</sup>, no definite answers before April 28 are expected. Extended feedback forms have been set up to collect feedback from the trip, only 11 answers so far, please take the time to fill out the forms and trip reports.

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

Minerba reported. The QoL mission statement is still under discussion. A virtual suggestion box is added to the webpage for anonymous feedback and requests. It was suggested to implement a system similar to what is done by the EAG. Stephany, Julie, and Minerba are reviewing the conference room situation; they went through the list of available rooms and rules. Stephanie Schuler and the admins updated the list of available conference rooms, the website will be updated soon. Stephany will work to ensure a 'One Lab' strategy gets implemented. On the office space front, optimizations seem possible between east and west side of WH. The bathroom issues of WH10, 11, 12 as well as problems with water fountains were brought up. The housing committee assigned 91 dormitory rooms and 65 beds in houses and apartments. There are 1931 nights pending, e.g. not allocated. 734 of these nights are by international travelers, 358 by graduate students. Individual request range from days to weeks per person, so there is still a significant amount of needed space. A waiting list is established to fill vacancies, should they occur. The Candlewood pilot has compatible room rates, the One-bedroom suite can lodge people, with the studio more suited for couples. The shuttle from Candlewood to the lab drives daily all summer long, and upon availability Candlewood offers transportation to and from Fermilab and area shopping at off-peak hours.

<https://fermipoint.fnal.gov/service/TravelSystem/SitePages/Lodging%20Near%20Fermilab.aspx>

There was a request for changes in the food supply from the vending machine; users would prefer instant meals to have food at shift on the weekends. A mobile grocery store option for the village is under investigation. The hourly car rental option is still under investigation. Maura from the communications office presented a potential virtual bulletin board, and asked for feedback and needed capabilities. There is currently a small classifieds section in Fermilab at work and the fnalgrad email list. We are following up on inquiries related to onsite banking services for our international users.

### **Report from the Directorate**

Tim reported. The access policy was distributed to the UEC for comments. The procedures are partly not finalized, open questions remain with visiting tours, some areas have clear rule by the DOE (like the Main Control Room with a strict Badge only policy), and other areas are less stringent. Minerba and others are working on office space optimization, and they look into ways to reduce the needed renovations costs per floor and improve the layout, the space assignment is a difficult and delicate operation. The directorate has given DOE an introduction to how FNAL computing, machine

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<sup>1</sup> FY17 Omnibus Bill was passed on May 1. DOE HEP was budgeted \$825M, a good outcome.

learning, and accelerators can help other DOE labs. An upcoming All Hands meeting will address questions and discuss FY18. In the Q/A section the broken toilets in WH and the unused WDRS parking reserved near WH was brought up.

### **Report from the Outreach Sub-Committee**

Sowjanya reported. The Brothers Keeper event is coming up, the committee is working with the organizers to provide a 3D event display for detectors, tours and a panel discussion. SMP goes very well, the new clicker system should be readily available in the fall session. A trial to record the lectures will be setup. A Latino forum is planned, see details at: <http://diversity.fnal.gov/lab-resource-groups/>

These are other outreach efforts from the regular UEC work for the Mexican holiday. The investigation into the volunteer database is ongoing.

### **Report from Washington**

Ben and Leland reported. For fiscal year 17 the continuing resolution and appropriation process is in full swing, the likely result is an Omnibus, after a short-term CR to finalize all negotiations. The levels of the Energy & Water bills are rumored to be resolved. For FY18 the DOE is examining ways to implement the proposed presidential budget cuts in a top down approach. Dan Brouillette is nominated as Deputy Secretary of Energy. Maria Spiropulu (Caltech) was invited to testify before the House Appropriations Committee on HEP priorities. The president's April 12 executive order 'Comprehensive Plan for Reforming the Federal Government and Reducing the Federal Civilian Workforce' requires DOE to submit a preliminary plan by June 30 on restructuration efforts and on workforce reductions.

### **User Meeting Sub-Committee & 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Sarah reported. 11 vendor spaces have been filled for the Users Meeting, we will accommodate more if there is need. The extra money from the vendors will support the meeting. 'Beyond Events' will be the caterer. For the Wednesday dinner we will have a carving, a mashed potato and a pasta station as well as vegetarian options. Hors d'oeuvres will be served during the evening, as well as a dessert and coffee bar. Taher provides regular coffee breaks, wine and beer. So far 391 persons registered for the symposium, 250 for Festa, 337 for the UAM, and 357 for the banquet. A remainder email in the week of April 24 is expected to increase these numbers. YOU need to register in order to attend!

<https://indico.fnal.gov/confRegistrationFormDisplay.py/display?confId=12923>

The conference office mentioned that they are impressed with New Perspectives and the Festa organizers. 24 Posters have been selected for the Poster Session; due to limited space we could not accommodate more this year. The URA has provided travel funds for young scientists, the awardees are responsible for arranging his travel, and details will be provided to the awardees. The graduate student list will be taken from the library, we expect to know the Tollestrup and URA thesis awardees before the end

of the month. The Outreach committee expressed their wish for a dedicated outreach session at the UAM, yet due to the limited time this can unfortunately only be addressed within the director's panel.

Minutes drafted and signed by Thomas Strauss and Ed Kearns