



Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for August 04, 2017

The meeting began at 8:30. Attendees were:

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

Lewis-Burke: Ben Preis, Ben Kallen

FSPA: Wes Gohn

Directorate: Nigel Lockyer, Joseph Lykken, Hema Ramamoorthi, Stephany Unruh

Time to vote! UEC elections are underway at:

http://orgs.fnal.gov/fermilab_users_org/elections/2017/

Voting closes 23:59:59 Central Daylight Time on Friday, August 31, 2017

Chair's Report

Ed reported. VISA issues: There are still problems for Users from specific countries to obtain a Fermilab Badge and Computing or Site access, even for international users from US institutions where the visitor has a valid US VISA. These Visitors are not allowed to stay on site at Fermilab outside the public hours (e.g. overnight in the village). The directorate is working as best as they can to support the visitors, but the decision is in DOE hands. Badge access and Public access differs, the site access was discussed recently at: <http://news.fnal.gov/2017/05/coo-tim-meyer-site-access-final-frontier/>

Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association

Wes reported. On August 10, a diversity panel is planned at Fermilab, the UEC will inform the users about it via the UEC election announcement. On August 18 FSPA will organize a Brazilian BBQ. On September 25, FSPA will host a Mathworks Career Seminar. The new FSPA election takes place in September.

Government Relations Sub-Committee

Louise reported. Most topics are covered in the News from Washington. A community letter from APS/DPF was sent to Congress to oppose the HEP budget cuts identified in the President's Budget Request. A small group trip to Washington was discussed with a target date of this fall. For 2018 full DC Trip, we will have more available funds, which we will use to support more participants. The materials will need a slight facelift, there is feedback and new ideas for the next year's material. The webpage usparticlephysics.org is underused, and its ongoing role is being discussed.

Quality of Life Sub-Committee

Minerba and Frank reported. The suggestion box on the webpage gets used, feedback about the cafeteria was received. The suggestion of better outdoor furniture, more vegetarian choices and food quality will be forwarded to the food advisory committee, for which the UEC must find a replacement member. The Laundry facilities in the village will be upgraded soon, as the contract is under renewal. Better payment options and new equipment will be part of the contract. Users complained about the bath room situation in WH, the repairs are getting addressed. The hourly rental car contracts for short term trips from the village were reviewed, once the report becomes available it will be discussed with the UEC. While some users request a better bike program & maintenance, the housing office has declined the request and users can expect status quo. The directorate will look into about a Divvy-Bike type program onsite.

Report from the Directorate

Nigel reported. The budget process is progressing and a new deputy secretary has been confirmed. LBNF/DUNE had a groundbreaking ceremony. The directorate is well aware of the VISA problems and working on an individual basis to help resolve it. Without the DOE hierarchy voids filled by appointments, there will be little progress on sensitive countries, new access is more difficult than a renewal. First numbers of the FY19 budget started to float around, one has to wait what will happen.

Report from the Outreach Sub-Committee

The **Fermilab Open House** is on September 23. This is a huge event with 20K visitors expected. The website for visitors is <http://50.fnal.gov/openhouse/>. The UEC was asked to reach out to the user community: *if you would like to volunteer, please sign up here:*

<http://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?ap=512925942> (outside FNAL domain)
<http://communication.fnal.gov/openhouse/> (inside FNAL domain)

The goal is something like a total of 800 volunteers. Andrea Heeg is the event planner: she organizes the site safety strategy, tour guides etc.

Report from Washington

Ben Preis and Ben Kallen reported. BK will be the future liaison to the UEC. A lot happened since the last meeting.

FY 2018 Appropriations: Both House and Senate progress, in the House's case passing appropriations bills. Congress will resume session in September. The process includes Secretary Perry's testimony before House and Senate appropriators and authorizers. Secretary Perry was prepared to defend the budget request but he made clear that he started his Senate confirmed position after the budget was already drafted, he had little input in funding decisions, and he was willing to take direction from Congress in a final

appropriations bill. The House Appropriations Committee approved the FY 2018 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill in July. In the House bill, HEP would be flat relative to FY 2017 at \$825 million. However, increased funding for the construction of LBNF and Mu2e, representing a \$30 million increase and \$900,000 increase, respectively, would impact funding for HEP research. The bill would provide \$29.5 million for dark energy and dark matter experiments, an increase of approximately \$5 million above FY 2017. The Senate Energy and Water bill would fund HEP at \$860 million in FY 2018, 4.2 percent above both the FY 2017 enacted level and the House mark. This growth would accommodate a \$32 million increase for LBNF/DUNE for a total of \$82 million in FY 2018 while allowing for a modest \$2.1 million increase to HEP Research. Mu2e would receive a slight increase of \$900,000 to \$44.4 million. Other specific allocations would include \$17.5 million for DESI; \$14.1 million for LUX-ZEPLIN; \$24.1 million for PIP-II, which would support LBNF/DUNE; and \$7.4 million for SuperCDMS-SNOlab. The bill reaffirms the Senate's support for implementing the recommendations of the P5 report.

Other Congressional Updates: Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AL) introduced the *Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017* (S. 1460). The bill would establish broad national energy policies, including in DOE-supported scientific research and development. The bill would incorporate the House-passed *Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act* (H.R. 589), which would solidify the sense of Congress that P5 should continue to guide all HEP investments.

Administration Updates: President Trump nominated Paul M. Dabbar to be Undersecretary for Science at DOE. In this position, Dabbar would be responsible for overseeing the Office of Science but not the applied energy programs. The Senate has confirmed Dan Brouillette to serve as Deputy Secretary of Energy. As the second-highest ranking DOE official, Brouillette will assist Secretary Perry directly in leading and overseeing the agency.

LBNF/DUNE: The groundbreaking ceremony for DUNE was held on July 21, 2017. While the ceremony itself marks a milestone for LBNF/DUNE, we have also noticed that the Administration has shifted its posture toward the project from hesitancy toward expressed commitment to fund it.

Future Advocacy Trip to DC for FY 2018: A potential trip for a smaller group of HEP advocates to Washington later in calendar year 2017 was discussed again. This would occur sometime later in 2017, likely in October or November. A corresponding outreach strategy (including messaging, requests, and meeting targets) would be developed once the trajectory for FY 2018 appropriations becomes clearer.

User Meeting Sub-Committee & 50th anniversary

Sarah and Tammy reported. A survey was sent to the User community, Tammy will check possible dates with the directorate.

Minutes drafted and signed by Thomas Strauss and Ed Kearns.

[REMEMBER to VOTE!](#)

Regular reminders:

Housing options can be found at:

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

Frontier Pub webpage

<https://www.facebook.com/thefrontierpub/>