



## **Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for February 3, 2016**

The meeting began at 8:30. Attendees were:

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

Lewis-Burke: Ben Price

FSPA: Sebastian Aderhold, Rui An, Wes Grange, Monica Nunez

Users Office: Kim Pearce

Directorate: Nigel Lockyer, Tim Meyer, Hema Ramamoorthi

Communications:

Housing Office: Cheryl Bentham

### **Chair's Report**

The FNAL Physics Advisory Committee (PAC) is soliciting suggestions for new members. There are questions from users that might be suitable for the All-User email list. The communication office has guidelines; we will invite Kurt Riesselmann to the next meeting to explain them. Generally, there was support for status-quo, perhaps with some announcements in the minutes. There was a discussion about statements of regarding public policy issues. Any statement of the UEC should be mission related, and based on a broad consensus of the users community.

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

Sebastian Aderhold reported. The recent FSPA event was the Chinese New Year celebration, yuge success with 100 attendees and 1500 dumplings made. The new roles in the committee are assigned

New Perspectives: Kanika Sachdev & Monica Nunes

DC Trip: Wes Gohn & Sebastian Aderhold

Career Events: Jessica Esquivel & Rui An

Frontier Pub: Monica Nunes

Social Events: All

Outlook of events: March: Q&A with attorneys from Michael Best on career options for scientists.

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

Louise Suter reported. On Feb 1 the first planning meeting for the DC Trip took place. Sessions were recorded and are available online, as well as the slides. New handout material is in production, there will be a new P5 overview, a new Fermilab flyer, a new

benefits handout and all is wrapped in a new nice folder. Assignments for the congressional visits will start soon. There will be extra invites send out to non-UEC members targeted to reach more and perhaps uncovered offices in House & Senate.

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

Minerba Betancourt reported. QoL made a transportation survey. The results are mostly positive, 110 replies were collected, the results will be forwarded to Tim Meyer & Stephany Unruh. 50% of the replies indicate the need of a car for 1-2 hours at multiple times a day, supporting the option of Zip Cars. The availability of child seats is also high on the user wish list. 75% of the respondents use the FNAL taxi service to get around on site, most would need the Zip Car for shopping trips, airport pickup.

The Food advisory committee is now in place, they reported that the cafeteria now has an online menu. The Frontier Pub offers lunch once a week. There are requests brought forward by users for regular fish options as well as non-Styrofoam plates for self-serving.

Eric Prebys reported on housing. The housing allocation committee "HAC" was founded to take over the job of room allocation after Roy Rubenstein has retired. They have started with a new policy to assign rooms. A lively discussion ensued, as there was plenty of feedbacks from the user community, due to the "first come, first serve" approach. A rolling 2 months window before rooms open up will put quarterly schools and semester schools in competition. The UEC asked the HAC to add university-based users to the committee, ideally representing both quarterly and semester schools. The allocation guidelines are being reviewed since the initial announcement. Shortly after the UEC meeting the next HAC meeting took place, where UEC feedback was relayed.

Currently the rules are

- Dorms: Opening on a first come, first serve base on a fixed date (date tbd)
- Room: Blocks are handled on a case-by-case base, up to 3 rooms/event, increase in room numbers is only possible if space allows two weeks ahead of the event.
- Apartments/Houses: 2 dates for application, allocations are decided by the HAC under consideration of laboratory priorities. Details will be described at a future UEC meeting, as this is still under development. Priorities might include items such as: International visitors, family with kids, undergraduates, experimental needs, etc.
- Applications can be made via online form, or in person from 8am – 4pm during workdays.
- Waiting List: A waiting list will be established, with a questionnaire attached to help prioritize the filling of rooms/ beds in case of cancellations.

- Upcoming dates and deadlines:

2017 Dorm Room scheduling opens: **February 15**

2017 House/Apartment requests due: **February 25**

[http://fess.fnal.gov/accommodations/housing\\_request.html](http://fess.fnal.gov/accommodations/housing_request.html)

- HAC: Current members are: Stephany Unruh (Directorate), Griselda Lopez (User Office), Cheryl Bentham (Housing Office), Frank Cheblana (UEC), Eric Prebys (UEC), Debbie Harris (FNAL)

#### Sexual Harassment Policy and Reporting

There has been a confusion of how the sexual harassment guidelines work for users. Step one is to reach out to Griselda Lopez or Tim Meyer. She will help to contact the responsible HR partner, they are experienced and trained for these situations, and confidentiality applies. HR partner will then explore options and present steps forward to the user.

UEC suggest that COO is very high; this might discourage reporting. Confidentiality and mandatory reporting (e.g. things that need to be reported to the police) are in potential conflict and could lead to fear due to bureaucracy. The UEC suggests adding a link the global services webpage so information is readily apparent to users. Since spring 2016 the user ITNA includes 'Sexual Harassment Training', over time all user should have taken the class and learn the information. UEC suggests that training includes slides on how to report incidents, as current training is mostly specific to employees and can be improved.

#### **Report from the Directorate**

Nigel Lockyer reported. DOE and its laboratories have no political guidance, the site office and directorate have the position that as long as there are no new orders, the laboratory continues to operate as before.

A FNAL scientist retreat is planned on Feb-07. John Myer (general counsel) and Katie Yurkewicz (communication office) will again explain the rules of communication for employees with the outside, in case of questions please contact them directly. As DOE contractor, FNAL has to separate work & lobbying, there are DOE rules about what can be done using government resource (emails, etc.).

The likely Secretary of Energy Rick Perry is planning to visit all DOE laboratories, once confirmed. He will select the new senior team leading the Office of Science (OoS), we have to wait for his confirmation before we will learn who is the new director of OoS.

On a positive note, there is a new infrastructure-spending bill; it would be good if science became recognized on the list of projects. There is support on the hill for STEM&STEAM, as well as a bi-partisan support of science, traditionally Republicans are in favor of basic research.

The Executive Order on Immigration was brought up. The director is personally contacting the involved parties, for example a foreign national with an approved visa application, to support them in their personal situation. The director reminds everyone that FNAL is a welcoming place, as he mentioned in his email from last November. In

general, there will be no public statement by the laboratory; it is not part of the mission of FNAL to comment on executive orders. Any comments have to be coordinated with DOE, other laboratory directors and other involved parties.

In general, as mentioned often: Political activity coming from an “fnal.gov” account is a not allowed, statements can and will be misconstrued. If asked, point to resources available outside, e.g. FNAL Global Services:

<http://get-connected.fnal.gov/visa/immigration-alerts/>

If you are affected by the executive order and need to travel, talk to Griselda Lopez in Global Services.

Tim Meyer reported. The laboratory is changing the supplier of the video conferencing software. After a field test the new solution ZOOM will allow Video Conferencing, Screen sharing and other requested functionality. The February 3 UEC meeting used ZOOM successfully.

Congress and DOE are working on the FY17 budget, the continuing resolution (CR) expires in April, it is not clear what will come afterwards. The Washington trip is being prepared, one can expect a lot of changes to the ‘ask’ of the trip, as everything is in flux, depending on how fast things go it could be about Budget FY17, the infrastructure bill or FY18 if a presidential budget request is available.

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

Sowjanya Gollapinni reported. OSC has a new deputy, Joseph Zennamo. In between Feb-26 and Mar-06 will be the Brothers Keepers event, a career fair targeting minorities and underrepresented high school children. OSC will support the event by looking for volunteers for day-off activities as well as with speaker suggestions. We expect 200 attendees with breakout sessions and hands-on activities.

Saturday Morning Physics has a new board of chairs:

<http://news.fnal.gov/2017/01/changing-hands-saturday-morning-physics-directors-pass-torch/>

SMP will live now within Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Office at FNAL (Sandra Charles). Funding became available from Friends of Fermilab and directorate. Thanks to the accelerator division, SMP now has an 8-seat van on weekends. The new SMP committee includes Lederman fellows Ting Li, Adam Anderson and Javier Duarte, as well as Minerba Betancourt, Bob Bernstein and directors Sowjanya Gollapinni and Elliott McCrory. The new admin is Maria Delgado. Currently SMP is in the winter session, take a look at the webpage: <http://saturdaymorningphysics.fnal.gov/>. Future plans include an all-Spanish lecture, woman in physics classes, and an African-American series.

The volunteers database development has made slow progress. Soon, volunteer sign-up should be through a web form. While the web sign-up procedure is being developed, interested users may email "[sgollapi@utk.edu](mailto:sgollapi@utk.edu)" and/or "[jzennamo@uchicago.edu](mailto:jzennamo@uchicago.edu)".

For a list of outreach programs in the Education office, look here:

[http://cdv-lassonew.fnal.gov/lasso/program\\_search/search\\_new.shtml](http://cdv-lassonew.fnal.gov/lasso/program_search/search_new.shtml).

If you have a specific program in mind, please include the name of the program in the email. If you don't have a preference and would just like to get involved, that is fine as well. One program that is currently looking for help is **Saturday Morning Physics (SMP)**. The SMP program directors are looking for volunteers who can act as tour guides. All needed training will be given, interested users should contact Sowjanya Gollapinni ([sgollapi@utk.edu](mailto:sgollapi@utk.edu)).

### **Report from Washington**

Ben Price reported. Rick Perry will likely be the next Secretary of Energy, he was generally well received in the confirmation hearing. He stated that basic research at universities and national laboratories, "even when it will not yield benefits for a generation," would be one of his top five priorities as Secretary of Energy. Grace Bochenek, Director of the National Energy Technology Laboratory, is acting Secretary of Energy. Many high level positions require Senate confirmation at DOE, and are currently vacant. Steve Binkley, Deputy Director of the Office of Science, is currently Acting Director of the Office of Science, and could remain in that role for many months.

President's Budget Request will be late for FY 2018, this is not unusual for a president during his first term: Bill Clinton, George Bush, and Barack Obama all submitted their requests more than two months after the deadline. Given that the nominee for Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has yet to be confirmed, it is likely that the president's budget request (PBR) will not have a budget request for some time, and it could be as late as May.

The current CR is lasting through April 28, as this expiration date is halfway through fiscal year (FY) 2017, it is likely that Congress will pass another CR lasting through the end of FY 2017. There is work on including an "anomaly" for the HEP base budget in order to support LBNF.

*America Innovation and Competitiveness Act of 2016* passed, it is 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*, then-President Obama signed the bill into law on January 6, 2017.

*DOE Research and Innovation Act* passed in the house on January 24. This bill includes what would be the first comprehensive authorization of the DOE Office of Science as well as provisions regarding research coordination across the Department of Energy. The bill would formalize the inclusion of the Particle Physics Project Prioritization Panel (P5) report into Office of Science planning. In addition, the bill would direct the director of the Office of Science to ensure international collaboration, neutrino research (with collaborations with NSF where appropriate), and dark energy and dark matter research.

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

No updates. Everything is going smoothly and the rollout of the invitations is expected shortly. More details will be presented in the end of February UEC meeting.

Minutes drafted and signed by Thomas Strauss and Ed Kearns