



## **Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for June 09, 2017**

The meeting began at 8:30. Attendees were:

UEC: Frank Chlebana, 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, Rui An

Directorate: Nigel Lockyer

### **Chair's Report**

Ed reported. The next UEC elections will be this summer. Candidates can nominate themselves until July 17, by collecting 10 signatures and submitting this form [http://orgs.fnal.gov/fermilab\\_users\\_org/elections/2017/FNAL\\_UEC\\_NOMINATION\\_FOR\\_M-2017.pdf](http://orgs.fnal.gov/fermilab_users_org/elections/2017/FNAL_UEC_NOMINATION_FOR_M-2017.pdf) to the users office. At the next UEC meeting the election list will be established and CV's and pictures of candidates collected.

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

Sebastian reported. New Perspectives (NP) was a success, two long days were filled with talks and 129 registrants, the maximum attendance in One West was 80. On Monday, a nice BBQ was organized for the participants. In the future, better coordination between the NP and Users Meeting deadlines is suggested, as participants are confused between the poster session at the Users Meeting and the talks at NP.

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

Louise reported. At the HEPAP meeting in DC the UEC DC trip and its results/impact/demographics were presented. We managed to contact 70% of all offices, equally distributed between both sides of the aisle. A letter of support for HEP was signed by UEC, other user groups and DPF and sent to the chairs of the House and Senate Energy & Water Appropriations committees. The material will need small revisits for next year, and it was suggested to add media (VR display). The FNAL brochure was well received. It was suggested that similar material be made for SLAC or other major efforts such as IceCube. There was a discussion on how to build a community via DPF and general communication with the public about issues like funding, call your senator/representative with details about which phone number, what to say and such.

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

Frank reported. The FNAL directorate is struggling to obtain DOE approvals for site access for some visitors from foreign countries especially those in the newspapers lately; likewise, approval for travel by Fermilab scientists to some “sensitive” countries is not being approved in a timely manner. These challenges are due to lack of application processing, which itself is due to unfilled appointments in DOE. Some of the restrictions or “additional approval processes” date back to 2014 and without new staff in these positions in the new Administration, the approvals have stalled. The directorate expressed its hope that this issue will be resolved in coming months. This is having a negative impact, for example a planned workshop had to move offsite, and attendance by Fermilab scientists at conferences such as Lepton-Photon (Guangzhou China) will be curtailed. Site access was discussed recently at:

<http://news.fnal.gov/2017/05/coo-tim-meyer-site-access-final-frontier/>

The feedback box on the QoL site is now fully functioning and anonymous feedback can be submitted (you can still add your name if you like us to follow up with you).

[http://orgs.fnal.gov/fermilab\\_users\\_org/Committee/QoL/Committee-QoL.html](http://orgs.fnal.gov/fermilab_users_org/Committee/QoL/Committee-QoL.html)

The Zipcar option for the village is moving forward, Stephany Unruh is the contact person in the directorate working on it. The new Dining Advisory Committee was formed, Carrie is representing the UEC, other members include representatives from EAG, Wellness Office, ESH&Q, Office of communication, Accommodations office, FSPA. The first meeting took place on June 07. The food in the cafeteria is locally sourced, and the meat is never frozen. For the summer the cafeteria considers moving the grill on the patio. In future biodegradable containers will be offered. The next meeting in two months will be addressing further requests and clarifications, if you like to add your opinion, please contact Carrie McGivern [mcgivern@fnal.gov](mailto:mcgivern@fnal.gov)

As a reminder, 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/>

### **Report from the Directorate**

Nigel reported. The cafeteria food is still subsidized, as we are considered an insular location (e.g. it takes longer to go elsewhere for food). As described above, DOE approval for travel to and travelers from China, Russia, and some other countries is becoming increasingly difficult with substantial delays. The appointed positions in DOE headquarters confirming these types of travels is currently not filled. The directorate hopes that the situation will be improved in six months, and apologized for the situation, it is a multilayer problem with visa, site access and spending. The Fermi Site Office and the Office of High Energy Physics are working with the Fermilab Laboratory Director to deal with the issues.

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

Sowjanya reported. Over the summer the webpage will get some updates. A signup option for volunteers will be added, and a suggestion box is coming soon. The mission statement was reviewed with a lengthy discussion about the goals. For Saturday Morning Physics the new clicker system gets implemented. For the FNAL open house on September 23 the role of the UEC is under discussion. <http://50.fnal.gov/>

### **Report from Washington**

Leland reported. The president's budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2018 was released on May 23. The three top priorities include nuclear weapons modernization, exascale computing, and nuclear waste management. However, the budget request would eliminate the Advanced Research Project Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), cut the Office of Science by \$920 million or 17 percent, and reduce funding for renewable energy, energy efficiency, nuclear energy, fossil energy, and grid research and development projects. Most of the cuts are targeted at university grants and research and development projects, with funding prioritized for national laboratories. High energy physics would see a cut of \$152 million, or 18.4 percent, relative to the FY 2017 omnibus appropriations level. Within the suggested funding, \$55 million would be provided to LBNF/DUNE construction. The Congress is unlikely to support the proposed funding reductions, especially to the Office of Science and ARPA-E, which share broad bipartisan support.

Congress is currently writing its appropriations bills for FY 2018. We expect that the House will begin to mark up its bills in June, with the Senate marking up its bills in July. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry will be testifying before the House Energy and Water Appropriations subcommittee on June 20, the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations subcommittee on June 21, and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on June 22. It is expected that he will face tough questions from members of Congress on the huge reductions to research in the budget request. Given the delayed nature of appropriations this year, there will almost certainly be a short-term continuing resolution (CR). This could have negative short-term consequences, as construction will slow, and DOE may have to withhold other funding. Historically, agencies consider the lowest level between the House and Senate funding levels, and the budget request, during a short-term CR.

HEPAP met in Washington, DC the week of June 5. Much of the agenda focused on research updates, though Glen Crawford and Louise Suter did give presentations about the budget and advocacy process. A trip of a smaller group of HEP advocates to Washington later in calendar year 2017 may be helpful in advocating for FY 2018 appropriations. This would occur sometime later in 2017, likely in October or December. Timing would be determined based on the length of any short-term continuing resolutions.

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

Sarah reported. Congratulation to Tammy, she will be the next years' chair. The feedback from the UAM and 50<sup>th</sup> birthday symposium is overwhelmingly positive. The food with passed hors d'oeuvre and cheese/dessert/slider bar worked very well. There was no hassle with long lines or tickets. Some people believed there was only cheese and crackers, so maybe we want to improve signage next year and give a better explanation during the last session. The poster session on Thursday afternoon had a decent turnout with 150 attendees; maybe we can add signage in the atrium pointing to the session upstairs. The coffee breaks were well received; the evening beverages were short on soft drink and water options. A questionnaire will be sent to the attendees to solicit feedback, as well as a thank you email. We got some feedback that the speakers were mostly FNAL employees (speakers are nominated by the experiment). Next year we will add a comment to the speakers request email. Some suggestion were made that the talks should focus on new techniques, and the big questions in the field instead of generic overview talks.

Minutes drafted and signed by Thomas Strauss and Ed Kearns