



## **Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for March 24, 2017**

The meeting began at 8:30. Attendees were:

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

Lewis-Burke: Ben Preis, Leland Cogliani

FSPA: Sebastian Aderhold, Wes Grange, Monica Nunez

Users Office: Griselda Lopez

Directorate: Joe Lykken, Tim Meyer, Stephany Unruh

Communications: Katie Yurkewicz

### **Chair's Report**

Ed reported. There are no new requests or items to report since the last meeting.

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

The preparations for the New Perspectives are well underway.

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

On April 18<sup>th</sup> FSPA plans a Easter Potluck, for later in spring a Badminton Tournament and career events (intellectual property law, finance, software engineering) are planned. Two screenings of the movie 'Hidden Figures' with panel discussion for users and outreach towards local schools are planned for early summer.

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

Louise reported. Additional training meetings for the DC trip are scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup> afternoon. The DC Trip will visit more than 225 offices, with 121 meetings still pending. Louise reminds everyone to review the material and the 'ask' ("pass the FY17 budget"), procurement information has been made available for trip members. Be thankful, be prepared, be excited, be respectful, and NO politics.

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

Minerba reported. The Food Advisory Committee is formed, and asked for a UEC member. Other members are from the Employee Advisory Group and the Office of Communication. Carrie volunteered to join.

The conference room usage discussion is ongoing. Stephany and Julie (ND admin) are collecting data, and will prepare a follow up from the Directorate.

The housing allocation for summer 2017 is continuing. Fermilab has developed a successful relationship with Candlewood Suites, a nearby hotel; they will offer direct billing to FNAL, they only need a credit card for backup.

### **Report from the Directorate**

Tim reported. Nigel had a successful trip to talk with international partners about their involvement in DUNE. Congress budget action for FY2017 has not moved much. The President's budget blueprint for FY2018 is sobering; expect more details on May 15<sup>th</sup> when the full budget will be released. FNAL users have had mixed experience at the border crossings related to the changing immigration situation. There is no 'pattern' discernable, and it seems to be based on a case-by-case basis. If you have problems please contact Griselda Lopez [griselda@fnal.gov](mailto:griselda@fnal.gov) in Global Services. The expedited H1B visa processing ceased on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

FNAL is working on a policy on lab access; it will be discussed at the next UEC meeting. Access depends on what one wants to do, where one wants to go and where one is from to define the status of a visitor, user (computing account). There is a draft to the 'code of conduct'; a group outside the Directorate has been working on the draft. The goal is to define a FNAL identity and expectations of behavior for the workspaces, as well as the village and offsite housing and applies to employees and visitors alike.

Q/A: Office Space is still under scrutiny after last year's survey and the UEC asked if further help is wanted. Randy Ortgiesen is working on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor layout, as this floor will be a test on how the new concept works out. Minerba offered to collect data and work with Tim, Randy & Stephany for a selected subset off floors (around 10) to monitor the office space situation this summer.

Q/A: Presidents Budget & Response: DON'T PANIC! The timelines and impacts are not yet clear, internally FNAL is preparing according with DOE guidance and strategy, meanwhile, FNAL aligns to the P5 plan and its prioritization.

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

Sowjanya reported. A meeting with the ED office & communication office took place, as the FNAL 'Open House' on September 23<sup>rd</sup> (<http://50.fnal.gov/>) will have similar needs of a volunteer database as the Outreach program. Sharing the same resource they have found an online tool that might be usable and could be paid for by 'Friends of Fermilab' <http://ed.fnal.gov/ffse/index.shtml>. An identified tool could become available after September, it was suggested to try an early small scale test for Saturday Morning Physics.

"My Brothers Keeper" is an event under the theme "High Energy ... High Ambition" that will require support from the UEC, for some more reading see <http://goo.gl/RXcPWJ>

Saturday morning physics (SMP) got a donation of 100 clickers to make the lecture sessions more interactive. There is funding for two school busses to transport the attendees on site. It is planned to try a recording and streaming of the sessions in the future. The summer plan is to enhance the outreach with local schools to increase diversity and inclusion partnerships. A Spanish 'Ask a Scientist' event on March 12 was very well attended by 100 persons, and Nigel welcomed the attendees in Spanish.

<http://news.fnal.gov/2017/03/fermilab-holds-first-ask-scientist-program-spanish/>

A STEM conference 'Dare to dream' is planned for April 29<sup>th</sup>, over 80 registrants so far.

<http://latinaconference.org/projects/stem-conference/>

### **Report from Washington**

Ben and Leland reported. While the President's budget blueprint proposed a 5.6% cut to the DOE, it affects disproportionately basic and applied energy research, as some funding levels are increased for areas like nuclear weapons production and nuclear energy research. Details can be found in news outlet and print media. However, the whole budget runs into the 'Budget Control Act of 2011' and some changes are unlikely to be passed. More details will become known in the middle of May.

Basic research has bi-partisan support, and DOE national laboratories have broad support in the House and Senate. The FY2018 appropriation process is delayed due to the late budget proposal, and Congress is still resolving the FY17 budget/omnibus or continuing resolution, which has to happen on or before April 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

Sarah reported. A draft agenda was presented and lively discussion ensued. 334 attendees registered for the symposium and 285 for the UAM. We have 7 vendors out of 11 available spots confirmed. The Festa Italiana is progressing nicely, the Poster Session deadline was extended to April 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

Minutes drafted and signed by Thomas Strauss and Ed Kearns