



Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for May 19, 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, 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: Tim Meyer, Stephany Unruh, Griselda Lopez

Communications: Katie Yurkewicz

Chair's Report

Ed reported. The User Meetings talk requires input, in preparation for the meeting Ed asked all committee chairs to review their webpage content and update the 'What's new' sections. The outreach committee still needs a temporary signup form. Ed asked for graphical content like the first UAM poster and old committee pictures, or DC trip pictures. Eric suggested to consider the material from the 40th anniversary. Dates for future UEC activities were suggested as July 17 – deadline for self-nominations for the UEC, July 21 – review of nominations by UEC, no meeting in August, Voting around August 25. First fall meeting on September 15 or 22. Voting procedure setup will be in the hands of Georgia, Sarah and Thomas.

Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association

Sebastian reported. A Badminton tournament took place, accompanied by a BBQ with a good turnout. Jorge Cham was invited to Fermilab to present his book, a movie screening of the PhD Comics movies is scheduled on May 19 and May 26. The New Perspectives conference is coming, 73 abstracts were submitted, 56 for talks. There is confusion between talks and poster, UEC and FSPA should work on better communicating the difference in the UAM Poster Session and New Perspectives Talks.

Government Relations Sub-Committee

Louise reported. The successful DC Trip still needs further feedback, not everyone has filled out the questionnaire. HEPAP and DPF both have requested the DC Trip report and used materials. The president's budget request (PBR) is expected for May 23. There were several questions by the UEC on this topic, firstly do we have a general response to send to the staffer/congressperson visited in March. Louise mentioned it is better to send a personalized letter, and she investigates common bullet points that can be

included. Secondly, Ed is preparing a letter to the ranking members of House and Senate to thank for the FY17 appropriations, he welcomes feedback.

Quality of Life Sub-Committee

Minerba reported. The UEC mission statement was updated, as well as the QoL webpage. The office space on 10, 11 and 12th floor is under scrutiny over the summer. Tim, Frank, Stephany and Minerba looked over the accumulated data and possible floor plan optimizations. They plan to coordinate a meeting with the landlords of each floor to better understand the needs and current spaces. An influx of 50 summer students is expected, one conference room (Nu's room) is converted into temporary office space.

The conference room booking is under review. The admins spend a lot of time booking rooms, and finally there was a review of the list of available rooms. Some rooms differ in equipment and others are not accessible at certain times and for handicapped. A new list will be generated to allow access and booking of the rooms by everyone. A draft of a consistent management procedure is under work, only exception will be the Theory meeting room.

John Hatfield reported on the activities in the village. The Frontier Pub has new opening hours from 6 – 9pm on Wednesday to Friday. Monday- Friday from 4-10:15 will be bar service (11:30 on Friday). Also, Friday's has a lunch special from 11:30. Chez Leon is still open every first Wednesday a month. A new meeting room can be booked via the FESS room list in the Users Center (for 20 persons). Many past successful events took place in the village, trivia nights have become a favorite. Highlights in June will be: June 9 – drug sniffing dogs band, June 15 – FNAL employee 50th birthday celebration, June 21 paint night. The User Center aims to have remodeling done, e.g. a new ceiling & lighting in the Pub Area, new seating and a solstice system, as well as a Key-Card entry to the games rooms on weekends. The UEC suggested to have a quick link to the User Center on the Fermilab at Work webpage, the Frontier Pub is accessible at <https://www.facebook.com/thefrontierpub/>

As a reminder, housing options can be found at:

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

Abri Credit Union is now able to establish memberships for everyone. Users will be asked to provide the following information:

- Passport
- Lab ID
- Welcome letter or employment letter from Fermilab stating their current address and their permanent address outside the US

If anyone has questions please refer to Dawn Moes <<mailto:dmoes@abricu.com>>

Report from the Directorate

Tim Meyer reported. The PBR is expected on May 23. DOE will contact the laboratories and Nigel will hold an all-hands meeting shortly after the release. As no web cast of the all-hands is available, a volunteer from the UEC will take notes to be sent to all users.

The new site-access policy is in place; some access require DOE approval after changes since August 2016. The political appointees required for this task is not filled, thus there are no responses to these requests by DOE (this is always a problem when a new administration rotates in). The Department of State rules regarding visa approvals and DOE invitations to visit the labs are out of sync. While FNAL is trying to find a solution to the problem, the result is that travel money and sometimes approval to visit the lab cannot be gotten in time. Thus, FNAL is making a practical decision as deadlines for events and workshops are coming up. Travel support from FNAL to certain destinations such as Russia and China is typically not being approved at this time. This may affect everything from summer-student programs to travel to Lepton/Photon and SRF workshops. The g-2 theory workshop had to be placed offsite. Decisions for the DPF Meeting and the Neutrino summer school will be made shortly.

Secretary of Energy Perry wants to visit the laboratory within the next year. One can expect a one-hour visit, priority will be facetime with Nigel and visits to selected site attractions like CMTF or the underground neutrino campus.

The FNAL owned bike program has mixed reviews, there are request by Users mostly in summer, but limited quality/maintenance funds. The short-term car rental is progressing and terms of the contract are negotiated. Site access was discussed recently at <http://news.fnal.gov/2017/05/coo-tim-meyer-site-access-final-frontier/>

Report from the Outreach Sub-Committee

Sowjanya reported. The My Brother's Keepers event as held on May 02. 300 students attended this successful event.

<http://news.fnal.gov/2017/05/fermilab-takes-part-brothers-keeper-initiative/>

Saturday Morning Physics (SMP) spring session finished last week and on May 13 a graduation ceremony took place with participation by Nigel, awarding certificates and prizes to students and appreciations to volunteers. The next courses start September 30. The aim is to have 9 English and one Spanish lecture. Over the summer SMP will reach out to underrepresented minorities schools and visit them. The donated clickers will be integrated into next year's coursework. The onsite transportation will be evaluated and the tour schedule revisited after received feedback and change in accessibility.

The Outreach webpage will be updated to emphasize the mission statement on outreach, education and diversity. The volunteer database 'Volgisitics' will be discussed

in a July meeting with the office of communication (adaptation for the needs of the committee).

Report from Washington

Leland reported. The FY17 budget bill passed with strong bipartisan support (309-118 house, 79-18 senate). While the bill stayed within spending caps, Congress did not make the cuts to non-discretionary programs proposed in President Trump's FY 2017 supplemental budget. Science agencies were successful with the FY17 budget (NIH +\$2 billion, NSF +\$9 million, NASA +\$176 million, DOE +\$1 billion). The Office of Science received an increase of \$42 million above FY 2016. All six OSC programs received an increase due to additional funding and the cuts to ITER. HEP had the largest funding increase, a total of \$825 million (+\$30 million over FY 2016 and \$7 million above the FY 2017 request level). This includes \$50 million (\$24 million above FY 2016) for LBNF/DUNE, \$43.5 million for Mu2E, \$15.2 million for PIP-II, \$45 million for LSST, \$12 million for DESI, and \$12.5 million for LUX ZEPLIN. The SLI project included \$2.5 million and approval of construction for the Integrated Engineering Science Center at Fermilab. The president's budget request (PBR) is expected for May 23 by OMB. There is an expected cut to the Office of Science, details on the distribution are not clear, however funding for EXA-scale computing will be protected from cuts.

'Dear Colleague Letter' for Office of Science are in distribution. One is by Senator Duckworth with signatures by Durbin, Franken, Whitehouse, and Gillibrand. The deadline is May 31. Senator Coons is also circulating a letter for broader DOE S&T support, which includes Office of Science, ARPA-E, NE, FE, and OE. The deadline is June 2. A similar letter on DOE S&T was already sent May 18 to President Trump from 6 Republican Senators: Alexander, Murkowski, Collins, Gardner, Graham, Rounds. On March 29 19 Senators expressing concern about the FY 2018 budget proposal and cuts to Office of Science and other DOE S&T program send another letter to President Trump.

Maria Spiropulu (faculty at Caltech, Fermilab PAC chair) testified before the House Appropriations Energy and Water subcommittee on May 3 on HEP priorities. Her testimony was very well received. Lewis & Burke had follow on discussions with staff from the offices of Senator Feinstein and Duckworth and the House Science Committee. On April 12, President Trump signed an executive order entitled "Comprehensive Plan for Reforming the Federal Government and Reducing the Federal Civilian Workforce," which directed the federal agencies, including the Department of Energy, to submit a preliminary plan by June 30 to reduce the federal workforce and restructure operations to end outdated, duplicative or inefficient programs.

User Meeting Sub-Committee & 50th anniversary

Sarah reported. The meeting registrations are maxed out, the conference office is working with the fire department and catering company to find alternative floor plans to allow more visitors. The agenda can be found online, please be prepared to chair a

session. We want to collect data on attendance. For the Director's panel, we are soliciting input from the UEC. The booklet has a list of graduate students, it should be clarified that only students with connection to FNAL should be included and theses need to be uploaded into the FNAL library. 12 students were granted travel awards ranging from low support for regional travel to larger amounts for international travel. Receipts must be submitted to the URA directly from this year on. Poster drafts were requested for May 20, there was feedback of discontent for requesting these drafts, future chairs might revisit the rule and explain better the reasoning. We reached out to judges for the poster session, we still need some more and have prepared a judging sheet.

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

Minutes drafted and signed by Thomas Strauss and Ed Kearns