



Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for October 13, 2017

The meeting began at 8:30 am. Attendees were:

UEC: Sowjanya Gollapinni (Chair), Jiyeon Han, Leo Aliaga-Soplin, Gavin Davies, Brian Nord, Fernanda Psihas, Tammy Walton, Thomas Strauss, Joseph Zennamo, Frank Chlebana, Carrie McGivern

Lewis-Burke: Ben Kallen

Directorate: Tim Meyer

FSPA: Sebastian Aderhold, Midhat Farooq, Aleena Rafique, Thomas Carroll, Xuan Chen, Monica Nunes

Users' Office: Kim Pearce

Global Services: Griselda Lopez

Chair's Report

Sowjanya Gollapinni reported. The new sub-committees are mostly formed with the following chair/deputy chair assignments. The membership of the committees is still being finalized.

- Outreach & Education: Brian Nord (Chair); Leo Aliaga (Deputy)
- D.C. Trip: Joseph Zennamo & Carrie McGivern (Co-chairs); Fernanda Psihas (Deputy)
- Users' Meeting: Tammy Walton (Chair); Jiyeon and Gavin Davies (Co-deputies)
- Quality of Life: Frank Chlebana (Chair), TBD (Deputy)

The sub-committees are in the process of updating the UEC webpages to reflect new developments. After serving in the role of web master for the UEC for a year, Thomas Strauss passed on the duties to Gavin Davies as the new web master. UEC thanks Thomas for his services, both as web master and secretary. The UEC mailing lists went through a major clean up with great help from Kim Pearce. To encourage more interaction and discussions within the UEC, dedicated mailing lists for each sub-committee are created. New proposals and ideas to provide more venues for UEC to interact with users were also discussed. Among the ideas discussed, a meet & greet or an UEC social hour type of event, spread around few times a year, was thought useful.

One of the main topics discussed included the new Code of Conduct policy (or Statement of Community Standards) that is currently under development by the lab. UEC along with FSPA and other members discussed the draft policy at length and will provide detailed feedback to the directorate with suggested improvements/edits. As part of the Code of Conduct discussion, other important topic related to user awareness of various existing policies (HR, D&I, Benefits) emerged and how UEC can help advertise them more broadly to the user community. This topic will be discussed at the next UEC meeting with short reports from all partners and possible ways for UEC to collaborate.

Report from the Directorate

Tim Meyer reported. LBNF/DUNE continues to grow as an international project with substantial investments from foreign partners as evident by the recent US-UK and US-CERN agreements. PIP-II Director's review went well and prepared the collaboration for the DOE review. Fermilab Open House that was held on September 23rd was brilliant and transformational. The lab saw 10,000 visitors with only 2.3 injuries reported. A lot of feedback was received from the community on the event which will be used to further improve this event in the future. Regarding lab access for foreign visitors, work continues with DOE, progress is slow. Please allow ample time, at least one week.

Report from Washington

Ben Kallen reported.

FY 2018 Appropriations: The government is still being funded under a Continuing Resolution (CR) that keeps spending at FY 2017 levels; this means HEP is still funded at \$825 million. The CR was passed to give Congress time to negotiate a budget agreement to lift spending caps for defense and non-defense discretionary spending and work on an omnibus bill to fund the government for the remainder of FY 2018. However, negotiations are stalled at the moment as Congress' attention is focused on tax reform. If a budget agreement is not reached by December 8, when the current CR expires, Congress will likely pass another short-term CR to allow for continued negotiations.

Other Congressional Updates: Representatives Randy Hultgren (R-IL/14), Bill Foster (D-IL/11), Kristi Noem (R-SD/At-Large), and Rick Nolan (D-MN/8) are leading a Dear Colleague Letter in support of HEP in the Administration's FY 2019 budget proposal. A similar effort will soon be underway in the Senate. This demonstrates congressional support for HEP, which is important since the Administration is preparing to submit a proposal similar to its FY 2018 budget which advocated for deep cuts to the Office of Science. The House Committee on Energy and Commerce is beginning to work on a DOE reauthorization bill which would reorganize substantial portions of the department. Much of the focus will be on reforming the applied research portions of the agency while Office of Science would remain largely untouched. The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is beginning to work on a scientific infrastructure bill designed to streamline the construction of large-scale scientific facilities. The Office of Science is a major focus of the bill, and LBNF/DUNE is included in the legislation. The bill language would authorize funding for LBNF/DUNE at higher levels than what were recommended by DOE, demonstrating Congress' support for the project.

Administration updates: President Trump nominated Paul M. Dabbar, an energy investor with JP Morgan/Chase & Co., 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. Dabbar's nomination has moved through the Committee and will be voted upon by the full Senate. Dan Brouillette was confirmed by the Senate to serve as Deputy Secretary of Energy and has since taken up his new position. As the second-highest ranking DOE official, Brouillette will assist Secretary Perry directly in leading and overseeing the agency.

LBNF/DUNE: The U.S. and U.K. governments have finalized an agreement that would formalize the U.K.'s \$88 million commitment to LBNF/DUNE, demonstrating international commitment to the project. The day the agreement was finalized, a reception was held at the U.K. embassy that was attended by Nigel Lockyer and other high-ranking DOE officials. Michael Kratsios, Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer, was at the event and indicated that the White House is fully behind LBNF/DUNE.

Advocacy for FY2018 Appropriations: A group of HEP advocates visited Washington in October to meet with key members of Congress to push for higher funding for HEP and NSF. The URA also submitted its advocacy letters in October calling for increased funding for HEP.

Government Relations Sub-Committee

Joseph Zennamo reported. The October D.C. trip was a success with over 54 meetings scheduled over 3 days with 7 participants. These meetings included major congressional committees (majority and minority) and the IL and SD delegations. Joseph Zennamo and Louise Suter led the organization and planning of the October trip. A simple yet clear and targeted message to both DOE and NSF seeking support for funding for High Energy Physics in FY2018 was drafted for the Ask. Working with the heads of the Users' groups (UEC, SLUO, USLHC) and DPF Executive committee, letters to the chairs of the House and Senate Energy-Water committees were put together and sent to further reinforce the Ask. The sub-committee is in the process of organizing a debriefing website to collect input/feedback from the trip members. Looking into the future, the sub-committee will start regular meetings to start planning the March 2018 D.C. trip. Some of the future goals of the sub-committee include defining a budget for the March trip, updating materials with latest numbers, and updating trip infrastructure.

In another news, efforts are being organized to update and redesign the USParticlePhysics.org website. Mike Cooke from DOE is coordinating this effort. The first meeting was held at DPF to discuss goals. The second meeting was largely about including all major stakeholders in the discussions. Third meeting happened on Nov. 6, 2017 where the major focus was updates to materials.

Outreach and Education Sub-Committee

Brian Nord reported. The sub-committee is meeting bi-weekly to discuss planning and activities. The sub-committee aims to serve the Users' community in a unique way and be complementary to other efforts with a fairly broad scope. Current plans include providing science communication training for 2018 D.C. trip participants and acting as a conduit for these best practices at the Users' meeting. Other activities include continuing UEC-SMP collaboration with a focus towards training new SMP speakers in science communication skills.

Users Meeting Sub-Committee

Tammy Walton reported. As a reminder, the dates of the 2018 Users' meeting are set as follows: Fiesta Italiana on June 19, Users Meeting on June 19-20. This has been

communicated to all spokespersons and division heads/deputies. Planning for the 2018 meeting includes: working on including both software and R&D, a proposal for keynote and/or public speaker and acquiring URA travel funding to support travel for the younger members of the community. The sub-committee is also working on improving documentation of outlining the tasks and goals of the sub-committee.

Quality of Life Sub-Committee

Frank Chlebana reported. A brief overview of sub-committee activities is presented for new members. Many of the users' suggestions from the cafeteria survey have been implemented and a Food Services Advisory Committee has been formed to continue to improve cafeteria service. Initial feedback from the Fermilab transportation survey suggested that users are very interested in the short rental car, options are being evaluated. For off-site housing, special rates are being offered for Fermilab users. Candlewood suites term of agreement is from January 1 to December 31, 2017. For office space, office utilization on several floors (9, 10, 11) has been evaluated. Next steps include meeting with leaders of each floor to understand the needs and current space availability in order to make efficient use of space. For conference rooms, the conference room listing has been updated. Work is ongoing to improve availability of rooms and the booking procedure. Plans to proactively survey facilities (e.g. restrooms) to identify issues and unreported problems are being developed. Griselda Lopez reported on the bike share program that is currently under implementation.

The sub-committee received many good suggestions from the community through the suggestion box. One suggestion was to advertise more broadly what resources are available for users (especially international users) when they are feeling stressed, overwhelmed and many other personal feelings. Another brainstorming meeting is planned to solicit ideas. The feedback box seemed to be broken at the moment and is currently being fixed. As a new topic, the sub-committee plans to focus on the status of lab access for international users.

Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association

Sebastian Aderhold reported. New officers for 2017-2018 elected:

- Thomas Carroll (U. of Texas, MINOS+)
- Xuan Chen (U. of Illinois, CMS)
- Midhat Farooq (U. of Michigan, g-2)
- Aleena Rafique (KSU, MicroBooNE)
- Karl Warburton (Iowa State, NOvA/DUNE)

UEC welcomes the new officers and owes a big thank you to the outgoing officers (Kanika Sachdev, Jessica Esquivel, Wes Gohn, Sebastian Aderhold, and Rui An) for their excellent job! Monica Nunes will stay for another year to ensure continuity.

FSPA Recent events: 3rd annual occurrence of Argonne-Fermilab soccer match (7-4 for Fermilab!) which included BBQ social for players and spectators at the barn, Joint event with ANL on a CV & Resume workshop (broadcasting to seminar room at FNAL), Career seminar with Math works, Career event with G. Davis from Institute for Defense Analyses (October 26) and Halloween party (October 27). All successful events!

Minutes drafted and signed by Sowjanya Gollapinni.

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/>