



Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for September 15, 2017

The meeting began at 8:30. Attendees were:

UEC: Leo Aliagas-Soplin, Gavin Davies, Sarah Demers, Sowjanya Gollapinni, Jiyeon Han, Ed Kearns (chair), Brian Nord, Fernanda Psihas, Louise Suter, Tammy Walton, Thomas Strauss, Joseph Zennamo

Lewis-Burke: Ben Preis, Ben Kallen

FSPA: Sebastian Aderhold, Monica Nunes

Directorate: Joseph Lykken, Tim Meyer, Hema Ramamoorthi, Stephany Unruh

Report from the Directorate

Tim and Joe previewed the significant agreement between the DOE and the STFC of the UK to fund DUNE, reported publicly last week (<http://news.fnal.gov/2017/09/uk-science-minister-announces-88-million-lbnfdune-visits-fermilab/>). The Directorate continues to engage with White House Deputy CTO Michael Kratsios, who attended the ground breaking and the signing of the UK agreement; he will advocate to OMB. Fermilab is now seeding activities in the Quantum Initiative (<http://news.fnal.gov/2017/06/chicago-quantum-exchange-create-technologically-transformative-ecosystem/>). 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 Preis and Ben Kallen reported.

FY 2018 Appropriations: Congress has passed and the President has signed a Continuing Resolution (CR) that will continue to fund the federal government through December 8, avoiding a government shut down. The CR makes clear that federal agencies cannot start new programs or projects. The bill would fund federal agencies and programs at essentially FY 2017 funding levels, meaning that HEP would be funded at approximately \$825 million. However, the CR requires a 0.7 percent across the board cut for all federal agencies and programs to address sequestration. This may mean that federal agencies could reduce some research grant funding amounts for the length of the CR. To prepare for negotiations on final FY 2018 spending bills, both the House and Senate continue to work on FY 2018 appropriations bills. The House has passed a \$1.23 trillion omnibus bill that includes all 12 appropriations bills, including the Energy-Water bill that would keep HEP flat at \$825 million.

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.

October Advocacy Trip to DC for FY 2018: A small group of HEP advocates to Washington will take place October 11-12. The objective is to meet with staff from the Appropriations Committees and other key people to reinforce the message from the annual DC trip and affirm our request for HEP funding in FY18.

Government Relations Sub-Committee

Joe Zennamo reported. Joe reported on planning for the October trip mentioned above. The October trip is being led by Louise Suter. Discussions of a unified message have included the UEC chair, US-LHC (Harvey Newman), DPF, representatives from the P5 panel, SLUO, etc. For the 2018 DC trip, we hope to reach out to major efforts such as IceCube, LSST etc. The budget for the March DC trip was doubled, allowing more participants, with the goal of approaching 100% coverage of congress (the past year's trip covered roughly 70%). Joe Zennamo and Carrie McGivern will organize the 2018 trip.

Users Meeting

Tammy Walton reported on the results of a survey following the 50th Anniversary Users Meeting. There was support for all of the functions of the Users Meeting, ranging from hearing reports from the lab to connecting with colleagues. Most attendees were satisfied with the coffee breaks, food, program, and so on. The feedback will be helpful as we return to a two-day users meeting in 2018. The dates of the meeting are set as follows: Festa Italiana June 19, Users Meeting June 19-20.

Quality of Life Sub-Committee

Griselda Lopez made a report on bicycle use facilitated by Fermilab. Fermilab will try a pilot program of a Smart-bike system, initially with 12 bikes and racks in the village and Wilson Hall. The Smart-bikes will be discontinued once temperature routinely drops below freezing. In the pilot phase, less than 4 hours is free, after 4 hours there is a charge. More details will follow when the program launches. The existing longer-term assignment of bicycles to visitors will continue.

There was a discussion of slow checkout lines at the cafeteria due to the vendor not being allowed to use the Fermilab network to connect credit card transactions. It would be worth finding out what ANL and BNL do.

Outreach and Education

Sowjanya Gollapinni reported. The O&E webpage is updated and points to a volunteer signup for the Open House (now completed by the time of these minutes). The next term of Saturday Morning Physics is set to begin September 30. SMP will be reaching out to underserved communities. A lecture in Spanish by Marcela Carena is planned for November 18. Metea Valley students visited Fermilab for a week-long program. The event was covered nicely in a Chicago Tribune article:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/naperville-sun/news/ct-204-metea-stem-fermilab-st-0811-20170810-story.html>

Plans for the lab-wide volunteer database should come to fruition once the big effort for the open house is completed.

Chair's Report

Ed Kearns reported. In July, Ed attended a teleconference of SSURF (Society of Science at User Research Facilities). Other attendees were UEC-type chairs from labs, light sources etc.; about 29 people attended in total. SSURF is a successor organization to NUFO (National User Facility Organization), which was reorganized to become a 501(c)(3) organization. Fermilab is a member of this organization. Some of SSURF's goals align with the Fermilab UEC activities, such as visiting congress. We have a much more extensively developed effort, perhaps we can give them advice and participate on broader outreach for science.

Election of new UEC Chairperson

Sowjanya Gollapinni was elected chair of the 2017-2018 UEC. The new subcommittees will be formed at the next UEC meeting, in October, but we know the incoming chairs: Quality of Life, Frank Chlebana; Government Relations, Joe Zennamo and Carrie McGivern; Outreach and Education, Brian Nord; Users Meeting, Tammy Walton.

Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association

Monica Nunes reported. The Brazilian barbecue on August 18 was a success with 160 attendees. A CV and resume workshop will be held on September 15, a career talk by Mathworks on September 25, and another career talk on Defense Analysis is on October 26. The Fermilab-Argonne football (soccer) match will probably be on October 21. Nominations and election of new FSPA officers will take place forthwith.

Minutes drafted and signed by Thomas Strauss and Ed Kearns.

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/>