



## **Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for February 16, 2018**

The meeting began at 8:00 am. Attendees were:

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

**Directorate:** None

**Washington:** Ben Kallen, Lewis-Burke Associates

**FSPA:** Aleena Rafique, who else?

**Users' Office:** Kim Pearce

**Global Services:** Griselda Lopez

Indico Agenda Page: <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/16403/>

### **Chair's Report**

Sowjanya Gollapinni reported (verbally).

- UEC brochure is being prepared and a sample brochure will be circulated soon. The photos from the Meet & Greet event will be used for the brochure.
- The Meet & Greet event held on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 was a success, good attendance and interaction. A lot of feedback received from users. A news article summarizing the event was published in Fermi "News at Work" (thanks to the communications office): <http://news.fnal.gov/2018/02/interaction-fermilab-employees-and-users-enjoy-uec-meet-and-greet/>. Thanks to all, especially FSPA, who helped organize the event.
- No directorate report is planned due to conflicting travel schedules.
- UEC group photo (with all members present!) is scheduled during the break.

### **Report from the Directorate**

None.

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

Carrie McGivern reported. Funding for DC trip has been approved and increased from last year allowing 10 more people to go on the trip. This will help us increase the reach to the offices. Executive committee meetings with OMB/OSTP, DOE HQ, NSF and DOE OHEP are scheduled. The sub-committee is updating the 2018 DC trip wiki page with all the trip details and materials. Justin Vasel has been working hard on the connection website and is running the script to assign primaries. Current coverage for Senate is at 96% and House at 60%. The DC trip materials are finalized and are being printed. They

will ship to URA by Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. The Ask is still being finalized. The DC trip training sessions are underway, organized and run by Brian Nord. The sub-committee thanked Brian for taking on this responsibility. This year, instead of the wave length shifting rulers, google cardboard VR viewers will be available in each packet. A question was raised if the connections database will allow secondary assignments on the fly, if not, what mechanism will be used to make secondary assignments? Carrie responded that Justin is working on it and if it is not ready, one can consider other options like email, SLACK and phone apps to get secondaries for the meetings.

### **Report from Washington**

Ben Kallen (Lewis-Burke Associates) reported.

#### FY 2018 Appropriations:

- On February 9, 2018, Congress passed and the president signed a fifth Continuing Resolution (CR) to extend government operations at fiscal year (FY) 2017 funding levels through March 23 to give Congress time to enact a final FY 2018 omnibus spending bill. The CR passed with bipartisan support with a vote of 71-28 in the Senate and a vote of 240-186 in the House.
- In addition to extending government operations, the CR includes a two-year budget agreement, known as the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018*, to raise both defense and non-defense discretionary spending caps for FY 2018 and FY 2019 above those set in law in the *Budget Control Act of 2011*. The budget agreement raises discretionary spending caps by a total of \$296 billion over the two fiscal years.
  - Within that amount, defense spending is increased by \$165 billion and non-defense spending is increased by \$131 billion. The budget agreement paves the way for completing FY 2018 appropriations and establishing a budget framework for FY 2019 appropriations.
  - The agreement raises defense discretionary spending by \$80 billion in FY 2018 and \$85 billion in FY 2019 and raises the non-defense discretionary spending cap by \$63 billion in FY 2018 and \$68 billion in FY 2019.
- Over the next month, the Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will negotiate new FY 2018 spending levels for each of the 12 appropriations bills and distribute the additional \$143 billion across defense and non-defense programs. Once FY 2018 appropriations are complete, Congress will turn its attention to FY 2019 appropriations.
  - It is significant to note that funding increases in FY 2019 will not be as large as FY 2018. Total discretionary funding increases from FY 2018 to FY 2019 will be \$36 billion, of which \$18 billion is for non-defense spending.

#### President's FY 2019 Budget Request:

- President Trump's FY 2019 budget request includes \$30.6 billion in discretionary funding for DOE, which would be a decrease of \$137 million or 0.4 percent below the FY 2017 omnibus appropriations level. This funding level includes an additional \$1.533 billion for basic research and applied energy programs at DOE

- proposed in OMB's budget addendum to reflect higher discretionary spending caps in the congressional bipartisan budget agreement.
- The Office of Science would be funded at \$5.392 billion in FY 2019, flat relative to the FY 2017 enacted level. This would include \$770 million for HEP, a decrease of \$55 million or 6.7 percent.
    - Apart from Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR), the FY 2019 budget request proposes reductions in research funding for the five other Office of Science programs, with the single biggest reduction for Biological and Environmental Research, which would be cut by \$112 million or 18 percent.
    - Funding for the other Office of Science programs was diverted to accommodate a \$252 million increase to ASCR primarily to accelerate the deployment of the first exascale computing system by 2021.
    - Without the last-minute addition of \$1.2 billion in funding for the Office of Science as part of higher discretionary spending caps set by Congress, the cuts to the Office of Science programs would have been much more severe.
  - The FY 2019 budget request includes \$7.472 billion for NSF, the same as the FY 2017 level. The Administration had planned to propose extremely deep cuts to NSF of almost 30 percent below FY 2017 levels. However, due to the new budget agreement for FY 2018 and FY 2019, the Administration would add \$2.2 billion back into the NSF budget request, enabling flat funding overall and a 2.4 percent increase for R&RA account that funds all NSF research directorates.
  - A question was raised whether the DC trip members should focus on FY18 Ask or if there will be an FY19 Ask. Ben suggested that there won't be an FY19 Ask during the DC trip week and one can mention FY18 numbers if it comes up. Another question was raised as to who formulates the Ask as there is a concern that it has not been universal. Ben answered that Lewis-Burke works with officials at HEP to prepare an Ask that the agency will agree. Another concern was raised that there is usually more focus on DOE than NSF and whether this year's Ask will include top-line NSF numbers. Ben said that NSF numbers will be included in the Ask this year and that NSF is currently formulating their numbers and once it is finalized, it will be included in the Ask.

#### Other Congressional Updates:

- The House recently passed the *Accelerating American Leadership in Science Act* (H.R. 4377), which was introduced by Rep. Randy Hultgren (R-Ill.), a member of the Energy Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. The bill includes authorization and funding for LBNF/DUNE at optimal levels over the entire planned construction schedule.
- The House Energy Subcommittee is currently examining the possibility of drafting comprehensive authorization legislation that could include both H.R. 4377 as well as the *Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act* (H.R. 589), which was passed early last year. H.R. 589 would formalize the inclusion of the P5 report into Office of Science planning and direct the director of the Office

of Science to ensure international collaboration in neutrino (with collaborations with NSF where appropriate), dark energy, and dark matter research.

- Subcommittee discussions are still preliminary. Such a bill would also have to be incorporated into the Senate's comprehensive energy policy bill—which is currently stalled—to have a chance at becoming law.

### **Users Meeting Sub-Committee**

Tammy Walton reported. Sowjanya and Tammy had a meeting with the keynote speaker for the Users meeting, Prof. Jim Gates, to discuss the keynote talk among other details. The sub-committee requested other UEC members to send ideas/thoughts for the Users meeting agenda. A suggestion was made to include a project status talk at the Users meeting. In terms of the length of the Users meeting, the budget scenario currently indicates a 1.5-day meeting. This will be finalized soon.

### **Outreach and Education Sub-Committee**

Brian Nord reported. The DC trip training is nearly complete. The sub-committee is consulting with Fermilab Communications Office for continued development of training materials but also to develop a more general science communication training for users. The sub-committee is brainstorming on organizing a science communication training event at the Annual Users' meeting event in June. There was a suggestion to look into science communication training sessions conducted during the International Neutrino Summer School 2017 held at Fermilab and during the January DUNE Collaboration meeting at CERN as examples. In addition to science communication efforts, the sub-committee will start to follow up on the User Volunteer Database and how to broadly advertise outreach events to users and employees.

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

Frank Chlebana reported.

- The sub-committee is in the process of defining a procedure for coordinating feedback. A survey was done to understand how other groups (e.g. Employee Advisory Group (EAG)) handle feedback. One of the goals is to categorize the feedback and identify a contact person, from the facilities side, for each category. Some liaisons are already being identified. UEC so far received 24 comments/questions, most of them during the Meet and Greet event verbally and some through the feedback form. The feedback received related to the UEC organization, DC trip, Users Meeting and user facilities.
- The Zipcar program started on Feb. 1, 2018 and at the time of the UEC meeting, no one has made use of the car. If there is no demand for this service in one year, it will be terminated soon. For the Enterprise Rent A Car, employee discounts are also available to both users and contractors. Active Fermilab ID is required for discount.
- The last part of the report focused on ways to improve communication with users. Some of the proposed methods included short and long surveys as part of the Users meeting registration and a feedback panel during the Users meeting.

- The webmaster, Gavin, raised whether UEC would need a new logo. Members agreed that a new logo would be nice as the lab's science mission has evolved.

### **Report from the UEC Constitution Task Force**

Sarah Demers reported. After their first presentation in January, the Task Force only received feedback from one UEC member and reminded other members to send feedback. A question was raised as to how the proposed amendments and new procedures will be finalized. Sarah responded that it will be based on 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of consensus via voting. There was a suggestion made to the members to read the "Robert's Rules of Order" for fair and orderly meetings.

### **Safe and Respectful Environments Discussion**

Fernanda Psihas presented slides to start the discussion and gather more input from members on the topic and formation of a sub-committee. Some of the specific goals proposed for 2018 included an extensive survey of existing efforts within the lab and starting an awareness campaign on the topic by interfacing with lab groups. Responses were provided to some of the concerns raised previously. During the discussion several points were raised, some of the them are listed below:

- Be aware of what other efforts are going on at the lab and interface with them.
- One needs to revisit the idea of "safe" and "respectful", cannot generalize, context is important. For example, should we respect a Cis white male discounting the experience of a marginalized person?
- Lot of things in US that non-US people are not aware of (e.g. Title IX). Educating incoming international students/collaborators would be useful. Another way is to collect information and make it available on the UEC webpage to inform users.
- The words "safe", "respectful" and "non-hostile" can mean different things in different contexts and how people use it. There were instances where a privileged member has used the word "safe" to scare an underprivileged member. Expertise is important when working on these topics otherwise will do more harm.
- Define what "harassment" is (specific to lab culture)? Maybe conduct a survey to gather data, give examples and clarify.
- Such a survey maybe biased or personal and hard to generalize. Maybe some form of an awareness campaign instead of a survey will be useful?
- It is worth acknowledging that we are low on the people power front for an effort like this. A possible metric is how many people are regularly attending the sub-committee meetings.
- Expertise is critical, one needs to proceed with caution and humility and stay on the "Do not harm" front.
- It would be good to de-scope the list of goals or priorities and set one goal for 2018 and focus on doing it completely right and do no harm.

## **Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association (FSPA)**

Aleena Rafique reported.

- The Chinese New Year Party is rescheduled to Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> due to weather.
- FSPA started their first monthly Newsletter which will be circulated to [fna1grad@fnal.gov](mailto:fna1grad@fnal.gov) and [all-fspa@fnal.gov](mailto:all-fspa@fnal.gov) mailing lists. The Newsletter will also advertise events from Global services and Education and Outreach Office.
- FSPA designed their Welcome Packet Flyer. This will be included in orientation notebooks of new students and postdocs. A slide on FSPA will be included in the presentation aimed at new employees and users.
- FSPA also updated their Users Office Flyer with new design and details.
- FSPA is planning to launch a Jobs board, designed to exchange academia/industry job information for students and postdocs in HEP

Minutes drafted and signed by **Sowjanya Gollapinni**.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Chinese New Year Party, Feb. 23, 2018
- New Perspectives, June 18-19, 2018
- 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Users Meeting, June 20-21, 2018

### **Regular reminders & useful links:**

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/>

Frontier Pub new menu:

[https://fermipoint.fnal.gov/organization/os/FESS/web\\_docs/Shared%20Documents/FrontierPubMenu.pdf](https://fermipoint.fnal.gov/organization/os/FESS/web_docs/Shared%20Documents/FrontierPubMenu.pdf)

Rental car information:

<https://get-connected.fnal.gov/users/services/>

UEC user feedback form:

[https://orgs.fnal.gov/fermilab\\_users\\_org/Feedback.html](https://orgs.fnal.gov/fermilab_users_org/Feedback.html)