



Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for June 22, 2018

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

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

Directorate: Tim Meyer and Alison Markovitz

Washington: Ben Kallen, Lewis-Burke Associates

FSPA: Xuan Chen, Midhat Farooq and Thomas Carroll

Users' Office: None

Global Services: Griselda Lopez

Guest: Sergei Nagaitsev (Accelerator Division)

Indico Agenda Page: <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/17218/>

Chair's Report

Sowjanya Gollapinni reported.

- The next two UEC meeting dates are finalized: July 13 and August 10. The meeting in September will be decided once the 6 new UEC members are elected.
- The Users Meeting went successfully. Thanks to the Users Meeting sub-committee and all those involved for a job well done!
- The Campus & Facility Planning Board (CFPB) is looking for a new UEC representative. Gavin Davies has been appointed for this. Previously Thomas Strauss served in this role. UEC thanks Thomas for his service and welcomes Gavin into the new role.
- The Housing Allocation Committee (HAC) also needs a new non-employee user from the UEC as a liaison.
- Elections for 6 new members for the UEC will start soon. The following deadlines will be followed for the 2018-2020 elections:
 - Call for UEC nominations goes out end of June
 - Deadline for nominations: July 25
 - Users wanting to run for the UEC should fill out the Nomination Form (http://uec.fnal.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/FNAL_UEC_NOMINATION_FORM-2018-20.pdf), obtain 10 supporting signatures from the Fermilab User Community, and send the form to the Fermilab Users Office **no later than 3 pm CT on Wednesday, July 25, 2018.**
 - Voting period open: Aug. 6 to Aug. 20

- New members are elected following the voting and will start attending UEC monthly meetings from September
- On the meeting agenda for the day, Sergei Nagaitsev will give a talk on a special topic “Fermilab Accelerator Science and Technology (FAST) User Facility”.
- The last item on the agenda is voting on the remaining UEC policies that weren’t voted on at the last meeting due to lack of time.
- **Gavin Davies, UEC web administrator** announced that there is a new website for UEC at uec.fnal.gov and asked UEC members to check out and give comments. The new website is in word press and went through a first pass of review by Gavin and Sowjanya. Gavin thanked Maura Barone and Jean Reising for their help with the website and getting it ready meeting Fermilab’s requirements.
- UEC also encourages users to continue to use the Fermilab Users Slack workspace (fermilab-users.slack.com) for interacting with UEC and fellow users. Although this workspace was launched around the Users meeting, the workspace will continue to exist beyond the meeting to provide an informal communication space for users.

Report from the Directorate

Tim Meyer reported.

- Tim congratulated UEC for a successful 51st Annual Users Meeting. He was impressed with the Keynote Speaker, Professor Jim Gates, as well as the purposeful focus on diversity and inclusion and appreciated the innovations on the agenda (e.g. Science communication training). He suggested UEC to brainstorm more on ways to increase community engagement during talks in terms of attendance and the Q&A after each talk. Some points that were brought up during the discussion included making the talks more comprehensive/pedagogical; asking speakers to focus on different aspects of the analysis so they are less repetitive from what may have recently been shown in conferences; separate panels on important topics (e.g. Government Relations, Quality of Life) rather than one large UEC panel; explore other meeting formats e.g. plenary vs parallel sessions with more time for socializing and themed sessions; implementing best practices (e.g. stating names/affiliations when asking questions); Tim suggested a thoughtful survey as a follow up action item to get users feedback on the meeting and what they would like to see in the future meetings. UEC will prepare a survey for this.
- FY19 Appropriations process is moving fast and may converge in October, lab needs to move fast and be prepared for it.
- The lab leadership has done a lot in terms of lab planning and the work is moving from vision to execution and it is important to demonstrate some (visible) progress soon. The DOE (site office, program office, program managers etc.) has provided great support, we need to acknowledge it and start showing results.
- **Q&A:** *UEC asked how are the partnerships b/n labs and institutes in the Chicagoland (ANL and FNAL) evolving since they can mutually benefit from each other (e.g. Fermilab can benefit from the huge computing resources that ANL has)?* Tim mentioned that the partnerships are progressing and that is something

that needs to be worked on more. There have been leadership changes both at UC and ANL and we need to understand where partnerships stand in terms of priorities for new leaders and how to approach them. There is a new program called University of Chicago Consortium for Advanced Science and Engineering (UChicago CASE) that is designed for UEC researchers to work with Argonne and/or Fermilab in a joint appointment capacity.

- Alison Markovitz said that she would be interested to get feedback on the science communication training session from the Users Meeting and also suggested that Users meeting can benefit more generally by providing guidance to speakers on the main audience of the meeting.
- Alison noted that Katie Yurkewicz, Chief Communications Officer (CCO) is leaving Fermilab and will start a new job at ANL. Kurt Riesselmann will be the acting CCO during this period of transition. UEC thanks Katie for all the help/support she provided in UEC affairs and wishes her all the best in her new role at ANL!
- Alison also noted that the communications office is always open to hearing new ideas and welcomes UEC feedback on all aspects related to communications. She also noted that the Users Meeting keynote speaker Prof. Gates emphasized the importance of science communication to congress and wider public. She highlighted the recent article on neutrinos and DUNE/LBNF by the company "Seeker" (<https://www.seeker.com/videos/space/inside-the-international-hunt-for-the-ghost-particle>) which received a lot of attention in the social media spaces. The lab has previously worked with Seeker on dark matter related subject and will collaborate more in the future.

Report from Washington

Ben Kallen (Lewis-Burke Associates) reported.

FY 2019 Appropriations:

- On June 25, the Senate voted overwhelmingly (86 to 5) to pass a \$147 billion minibus spending package that includes its FY 2019 Energy-Water appropriations bill. The House passed its version of the minibus earlier this month. The final conference legislation is likely to more closely reflect the Senate version since Democratic support will be necessary to meet the 60-vote threshold required to advance legislation through the chamber.
- **Overall, both the House and Senate bills are very good news for HEP. Each would provide significant increases to Office of Science and HEP as well.**
 - The House would provide \$6.6 billion for Office of Science, an increase of \$340 million or 5.4 percent above FY 2018. This would include \$1.005 billion for HEP, an increase of \$97 million or 10.6 percent over FY 2018. The bill also includes the following specific funding directives:
 - LBNF/DUNE – \$175 million
 - Mu2E – \$30 million
 - PIP-II – \$31 million
 - HL-LHC Upgrade project – \$105 million

- DESI and LZ – \$22.45 million
- The Senate would provide \$6.65 billion for Office of Science, an increase of \$390 million or 6.2 percent over FY 2018. HEP would be funded at \$1.01 billion, an increase of \$102 million or 11.2 percent over FY 2018. The bill also includes the following specific funding directives:
 - LBNF/DUNE – \$145 million
 - PIP-II – \$35 million
 - DESI – \$7.5 million
 - LUX-ZEPLIN – \$14.45 million
 - FACET-II – \$10 million
 - LSST – \$6.25 million
- House and Senate appropriators have also approved their respective Commerce-Justice-Science bills, which fund NSF, though neither chamber has passed its version of the bill.
 - The House would provide NSF with \$8.17 billion, \$408 million above the FY 2018 omnibus level. The Research and Related Activities (R&RA) account, which includes the Division of Physics, would be funded at \$6.6 billion, \$317 million above the FY 2018 level.
 - The Senate would provide NSF with \$8.07 billion, which is \$301 million or 3.9 percent above the FY 2018 level. R&RA would be funded at \$6.56 billion, 3.5 percent above the FY 2018 level.

Q: *How does the midterm election impact this process?*

A: Ben responded by saying that all scenarios are possible. Energy/Water has always been one of the easier bills for appropriators to wrap up, regardless of whether or not it is an election year. There is always the possibility that it could be used as a bargaining chip in other appropriations processes, and could be impacted by the broader appropriations process (Immigration or health care, for example). However, too soon to guess.

Q: *If we are talking to congress now, what can we do to support the bill?*

A: Ben said that we should still emphasize on the support provided, extend more thanks and be grateful for the support. One recommendation would be to start putting together community letters like we did before. As the FY 2019 appropriations process is moving quickly, drafting community letters thanking appropriators for their strong support of HEP and requesting that they support the Senate bill given its more balanced approach to supporting both research and facilities would be very beneficial.

Other Congressional Updates:

- The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology approved its *Department of Energy Science and Innovation Act* (H.R. 5905), which is an updated version of a bill (H.R. 589) they passed early last year.
 - Like the original version, the updated bill 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 were appropriate), dark energy, and dark matter research.

- Unlike the original version, H.R. 5905 includes an authorization for funding at optimal levels for LBNF/DUNE.
- The House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology marked up and approved the *National Quantum Initiative Act* (H.R. 6227), which would create a National Quantum Initiative and facilitate fundamental quantum information science research as well as technology development at DOE, NSF, and NIST.
 - The Committee approved one amendment from Rep. Randy Hultgren (R-IL) which would task the proposed National Quantum Coordination Office with ensuring that new quantum information science (QIS) research centers authorized by the bill utilize existing assets at the National Labs and in industry to pursue QIS research.
 - The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has introduced a companion bill.

Agency Personnel:

- One June 26, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources met to consider nominees for several positions in DOE, including Chris Fall, who has been nominated to serve as Director of the Office of Science. His nomination is regarded as noncontroversial, and there is a high likelihood that he will be confirmed and working at DOE by August.
- Other nominees included Daniel Simmons to lead EERE, Karen Evans to be Assistant Secretary of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, and Teri Donaldson to be Inspector General of DOE.

Government Relations Sub-Committee

Carrie McGivern reported.

- Following an introduction from Mike Cooke (DOE), Carrie had a phone meeting with Francis Slakey who is the chief Government Relations officer for APS. APS is interested in building a relationship with UEC and collaborating on various aspects of advocacy. Carrie has notes from the meeting and will follow up with the sub-committee with more details. Carrie heard from Francis that his office looks more for human interest stories. Good, positive human stories. APS is also focusing on the local level as opposed to just Washington which is what UEC focuses on. They try to get these positive stories on local news and then will go to the local representative with the news clip for more impact during communications. This approach implies an extension in scope in terms of broadening UEC's impact and might result in having a better impact on the districts throughout the year, helping UEC reinforce the message to congress. There could be a lot of value added to what UEC does, if the messaging is right. It was also noted that UEC needs to do some careful interfacing since APS focuses on all sub-fields not just HEP. So we need to make sure the messaging is aligned.

- Joseph gave a presentation at the HEPAP meeting. Jim Siegrist after the talk stood up and noted that the DC trip is the single most important thing that the community could be doing in terms of advocacy and gave everybody credit for the trip. Fernanda noted that this topic came up a number of times in various other talks throughout HEPAP.

Quality of Life Sub-Committee

Frank Chlebana reported (via email). The sub-committee is working with other groups at the lab to address quality of life issues with a focus on improving the communication and address the questions/concerns received through the feedback forms. Frank is also working on a broader survey which is planned to be sent to the user community in the coming weeks.

Outreach & Education Sub-Committee

Brian Nord reported.

- The sub-committee plans to work with Andre Salles (Communications Office) to diversify the portfolio of education and outreach opportunities.
- Sarah Demers continues to pursue work on the volunteer database. Brian Nord will start joining the discussions in the coming weeks.
- Science Communication training was led brilliantly by Andre Salles during the User's Meeting. It was very interactive and people were engaged throughout the session. 30 people signed up for the session, about 70 expressed interest. There were some no-shows. In the end, the session had 29 participants including some walk-ins.
- One of the UEC members commented that it would be great to have longer than 1.5-hour training session and the session can include school teachers in the future since they bring a lot of experience to the table. Another member commented that if the science communication training can be made a standard training course (as an elective option) to those who come to the lab, that could make a huge impact on how we communicate.
- The sub-committee is thinking about ways that can be used to influence the talks in the actual meeting, which could be more dynamic and comprehensive. For example, one can imagine having people (voluntarily) send the drafts of their posters or talks to get feedback from UEC on the science communication aspect of it.

Users Meeting Sub-Committee

Tammy Walton reported.

There was no report but discussions on how to improve active participation from audience (both in terms of attendance and asking questions after a talk) continued. Tammy commented that there is a need to change how we as a community interact with people to motivate active discussions. One of the FSPA members commented that most people didn't understand the talks, given the level of detail presented (too technical), more specific guidance on tuning the talks to the broad audience would be

useful. One of the UEC members enquired if there will be a press release on how the Users Meeting went. The answer is yes, in a couple of weeks following the Users Meeting.

Special topic: Fermilab Accelerator Science and Technology (FAST) User Facility

Sergei Nagaitsev, who is currently the head of the Accelerator Science Programs at Fermilab, presented the talk. Fermilab has a proven record of delivering accelerators for the HEP mission. The current focus is heavily driven by the technology development for projects. The goal of building a FAST user facility would be to pivot Fermilab more towards “Accelerator Science” and to expand the program to external partners. Sergei emphasized that domestically, the proposed most challenging next-generation accelerators are not HEP accelerators and there is a chance that the guardianship of accelerator science could move away from HEP (and Fermilab) if we don’t act now. The proposed goal is to develop FAST into a National User Facility and expand accelerator science using various avenues (USPAS, Fermilab Accelerator PhD program, growing external collaborations both nationally and internationally etc.).

Q: Electron-ion collider is funded through nuclear – will this create an issue?

A: Yes, HEP has a lot of expertise, but it is unfortunate we can’t work on it.

Q: How can UEC help here?

A: Mainly wanted to inform the UEC on FAST and get advice on certain things:

- Should we be opening a tent and bring users into the tent? Or do we want to form a separate tent? Do we want a separate facility or form this as part of the existing complex? As an example, BNL has more than one user facility.
- Maybe UEC can encourage the users to have more interest in accelerator research. We currently have 70 PhDs in the accelerator division, but only 2 postdocs because the science opportunities are gone.

Q: Should the accelerator division interact and integrate more with the experiments? For example, the scientific computing division managed to integrate with experiments.

A: Only a small fraction of us were trained explicitly as accelerator scientists. Many of us came from experiments. And we would love to have accelerator scientists more integrated into experiments if there is opportunity.

Q: In order to push this idea, are you going to the PAC? Can the current PAC address this?

A: We do not have a single accelerator physicist on the current PAC. Currently, there is a separate Accelerator PAC. A science driven advisory committee is needed before it becomes a user facility. I’m looking for input so that we find the most exciting science to pull into this potential effort.

Comment: It would be good to have representation from the accelerator division on the UEC in the coming terms to give this a stronger voice.

Comment: There was an exciting talk at New Perspectives about improving a muon beam and there were many questions. So, seems like the community is interested.

UEC would like to invite Sergei again for more discussions on this topic.

FSPA Report

Midhat Farooq reported.

- Some of the recent events organized by FSPA went well.
 - About 40 people attended the BBQ and the Soccer Tournament between various Fermilab experiments held on May 19.
 - The new event “Sunshine and Popsicles in the park” held on June 3 had about 15 attendees
 - The very first talk of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) seminar series was launched in May and the event went very well. The series is named as “EDI 101” with the theme to educate the community about issues concerning EDI and providing tools and techniques one can use to build together a more inclusive environment. About 70 people attended (+15 people via Zoom) the talk. A survey was taken following the event and FSPA will share the results soon.
 - The New Perspectives Meeting went successfully. Among many other things, the meeting included a Diversity & Inclusion panel with a discussion on D&I efforts at institutions across the Nation. About 60 people attended this event.
 - FSPA also had a Career panel focusing on “Paths to Tenured Faculty Positions” where faculty from various universities discussed the application and hiring processes for faculty positions at Universities.
- Some of the upcoming efforts from FSPA include rewriting their mission statement and possibly introducing by-laws for FSPA
- Some of the Upcoming events from FSPA include
 - July: Badminton Tournament
 - Career week:
 - July 17th: Industry Job Expo
 - July 19th: Insight Data Science Workshop
 - Invitation from Argonne:
 - July 18th and 25th: Academic Job Search Prep
 - August 29th: Private Sector Prep
 - July-August: EDI-101 Seminar series will continue, dates and topics TBA

Voting on UEC Policies (closed session)

Sowjanya Gollapinni chaired the session. The policies that were voted on can be found on Indico: <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/16799/contribution/10/material/slides/0.pdf> (policies #2, #3, and #4 on slide 9). Policy#2 and #3 passed with 2/3rd voting (some amendments were suggested to policy#2 to remove the word “typically” and to clarify that it applies to members in a given year). Policy#4 didn’t pass the voting and comments were made to include more details on special cases. An updated Policy#4 will be revisited at the next UEC meeting in July. The procedures task force will work with the web administrator Gavin Davies to upload the policies onto the UEC website.

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

Upcoming Events:

- UEC nominations due: July 25th
http://uec.fnal.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/FNAL_UEC_NOMINATION_FORM-2018-20.pdf
- Career week:
 - July 17th: Industry Job Expo
 - July 19th: Insight Data Science Workshop
- Invitation from Argonne:
 - July 18th and 25th: Academic Job Search Prep
 - August 29th: Private Sector Prep

Regular reminders & useful links:

- Housing options can be found at:
- <https://fermipoint.fnal.gov/service/TravelSystem/SitePages/Lodging%20Near%20Fermilab.aspx>
- Offsite housing Candlewood Hotel reservation:
- <http://www.candlewoodsuites.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=cw&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=CHIWI&rateCode=ILY71&PMID=99502056&corporateNumber=000118397>
- 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
- Rental car information: <https://get-connected.fnal.gov/users/services/>
- UEC user feedback form: <http://uec.fnal.gov/uec-feedback-form/>