



Fermilab Users Executive Committee meeting minutes October 12th, 2018

Agenda: <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/18551/>

The meeting began at 8:30 am CT.

Attendees

UEC: Gavin Davies, Leo Aliaga Soplin, Fernanda Psihas, Kirsty Duffy, Jiyeon Han, Brian Nord, Saptaparna Bhattacharya, Oliver Gutsche, Cindy Joe, David Martinez (remote), Greg Snow (remote)

Directorate: Tim Meyer

Washington: Ben Kallen

FSPA: Karl Warburton, Mike Wallbank, José Palomino

Users Office: Kim Pearce

Global Services: Griselda Lopez

Chair's Report

Gavin Davies reported.

- The UEC website has been updated to reflect the new membership of the committee and will be updated with subcommittee membership information
- Currently all UEC communication is via email. Chair proposed utilizing the Fermilab Users Slack workspace for internal communication as well as sharing information with the user community. This workspace was introduced at the 2018 Users Meeting to further engage the audience and as a long-term platform to connect all users. The UEC will continue to promote this.
- Users are encouraged to continue to keep sending the UEC feedback either via our online form or connect with a UEC representative. Chair proposed, and it was agreed, to dedicate a portion of UEC meetings to address users' feedback more directly.
- Dates for the remaining UEC monthly meetings finalized: Nov. 2nd and Dec. 7th. Also, a reminder that the 52nd Users Meeting will take place June 12-13, 2019 which of course will be precluded by New Perspectives 2019 on June 10-11
- Advertised the Creating Inclusive Workplaces workshop by the LGBTQ Academy at the Out Alliance. The facilitators for this event were Jeannie Gainsburg (Education Director) and Noah Wagoner (LGBTQ Academy Trainer). This was held on October 18th in the Hornets Nest (WH8X).

- Subcommittee Chair elections were held by policy. Nominees circulated short subcommittee vision and experience presentations in advance of the meeting and partook in a short Q&A session prior to voting.
- The UEC thanks Kim Pearce for her impartial assistance during the voting.
- There was only one candidate for three of the subcommittees and zero for the Quality of Life subcommittee. A formal election was foregone for the QoL subcommittee and replaced with a volunteer upon discussion.
- The subcommittee chairs are as follows:
 - o Education & Public Outreach: **Saptaparna Bhattacharya**
 - o Government Relations: **Fernanda Psihas**
 - o Quality of Life: **Oliver Gutsche**
 - o Users Meeting: **Leo Aliaga Soplín**
- The subcommittee chairs are in the process of appointing their deputies by policy and they should be available for announcement at the next meeting.

Report from Directorate

Tim Meyer reported.

- The Housing Allocation Committee will continue for a further two years at least and Directorate invites a new member from UEC. Typically meet three or four times a year and gets most exciting when discussing summer housing. UEC will send nominations for HAC.
- The Accommodation Office work efforts will become more closely tied to the Users Office as it is losing expertise of two key staff members that announced retirement recently.
- Plans for a future Guest House at Fermilab are being converted from intentions into action as we look towards a possible 3-4-year game plan for realization. Will draw on U. Chicago real estate expertise.
- Relating to internet services in the village, a new fiber was run to Aspen East and improves situation there. Modern laptops are more reliable in the dorm areas. Exploring the option of outsourcing from a commercial internet provider.
- Lots of improvements have been made to Frontier Pub including extended hours during the week, more food options
- The lab is paying more attention to the village and there are some aspects to be concerned about that are reports of instances of a threatening environment. The lab will be putting the community standards posters up around the village as a reminder of expectations. There are also plans that will be reported as more details are understood for potential proactive training at the lab.
- One aspect to consider is that the village is a curious case on-site since the lab has a zero-tolerance rule on alcohol. Good conduct is required to continue using facilities.
- DOE Office of Science has new guidance on international visitors in a press release that we will learn about soon; certainly, be proactive and plan in advance when

renewing badges.

- We are officially in FY 2019 now and all the news is positive financially. An increase in funding for HEP and the lab funding has increased ~25% over the last 3 years. Directorate recognizes that the efforts of the UEC-led Washington DC trip are a key element of this success (more details in the Report from Washington).
- The mid-term elections could influence the situation for FY 2020 so important to keep an eye on the future and make plans accordingly
- Other good news was the passing of the National Quantum Initiative bill which established that Quantum Information Science (QIS) is critical to the nation's economy and national security. There are 5 new QI centres with lab-led partnerships.

Report from Washington

Ben Kallen (Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC) reported.

FY 2019 Appropriations

- For the first time in a decade, Congress passed and the President signed five out of the 12 annual FY 2019 appropriations bills before the new fiscal year ban on October 1. Among the bills was a three-bill minibus package (P.L. 115-244) which included funding for DOE, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), military construction projects, the Army Corps of Engineers water infrastructure projects, and operations of Congress and other legislative branch agencies.
- The Office of Science received a significant increase of \$325.1 million or 5.2 percent for a total of \$6.59 billion, with all six program offices benefiting from the additional funding. HEP was provided \$980 million, \$72 million above the FY 2018 enacted level of \$908 million. Within the overall amount for HEP, the explanatory statement outlines the following allocations:
 - o LBNF/DUNE: \$130 million
 - o Mu2E: \$30 million
 - o PIP-II: \$35 million
 - o HL-LHC Upgrade project: \$105 million
 - o Dark Matter/Energy Experiments: \$22.45 million, including \$5.45 million for DESI and \$14.45 million for LUX-ZEPLIN
 - o LSSTCam: \$6.25 million
 - o FACET II: \$10 million
- Timely passage of appropriations bills ensures that agencies have budgetary stability over the course of the entire fiscal year. This means that DOE will be looking to issue its funding solicitations earlier than it did last year when the agency didn't receive its full appropriations until halfway through the fiscal year.
- NSF is funded under the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill. The FY 2019 version of the CJS bill was not resolved before the start of the current fiscal year due to impasses over Justice programs. As such, NSF is operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) which will keep the agency funded at FY 2018 levels until December 7th. Once the CR expires, Congress will have to

decide whether to pass full appropriations for the remainder of FY 2019 or keep NSF and the other CJS agencies funded under another CR.

Other Congressional Updates:

- Congress passed and the President signed the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (P.L. 115-246). This is the first major piece of authorizing legislation for the Office of Science in eight years. It would formally authorize major strategic priorities and programs across all six Office of Science program offices, including experiments and priorities articulated in the P5 report.
- The House has passed its version of the National Quantum Initiative Act (H.R.6227). This bill would create a National Quantum Initiative and facilitate fundamental quantum information science research at various federal agencies.
 - While the House bill includes provisions on NSF, DOE, and NIST, the Senate version (S.3143) is absent a DOE title. This is only because the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation does not have jurisdiction over DOE while the House Science Committee does.
 - The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) is working on a separate DOE title which will then be combined with the larger Senate bill. The ENR version will take a more comprehensive approach to authorizing DOE's role in QIS research by emphasizing the agency's role in supporting smaller grants in addition to the larger, center-level efforts originally proposed by the House.
 - Despite these developments, the bill's passage may slip to next year since the upcoming midterm elections are causing the legislative schedule to be shortened.

Agency Personnel

- Dr. Chris Fall, who has been nominated to lead the Office of Science, will be part of a larger package of nominees that may be passed by the Senate through an expediated process. It is plausible that he could be in position at DOE by the end of October.

UEC Advocacy

- We have drafted letters on behalf of Members of both the House and Senate addressed to the Office of Management and Budget and Office of Science and Technology Policy that urge the Administration to strongly support HEP and LBNF/DUNE in its budget proposal for FY 2020.

Report from FSPA

Karl Warburton reported.

- Five new FSPA officers for 2018-2019 elected:
 - Andrew Furmanski (U. of Manchester, UK: MicroBooNE/SBN/DUNE)
 - Deepika Jena (SCD-PDS-SCS, Fermilab: MINERvA)
 - José Palomino Gallo (Illinois Institute of Technology: SBND/DUNE)
 - Mike Wallbank (U. of Cincinnati, NOvA/DUNE)
 - Barbara Yaeggy (U. Técnica Federico Santa María, Chile: MINERvA)

- UEC welcomes the new members and looks forward to working with FSPA throughout the year continuing with an open invite to monthly UEC-at-large and regular subcommittee meetings.
- UEC extends a big thank you to the outgoing members for their marvelous efforts: Tom Carroll, Xuan Chen, Midhat Farooq, Mônica Nunes, and Aleena Rafique
- Karl Warburton will remain an FSPA officer for another year to ensure continuity.
- FSPA hosted the Fermilab vs. Argonne football (soccer!) grudge match, with BBQ Afterwards. Argonne got sweet revenge from last year, running out victors 4-2. The match can be viewed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNqDiEwsEA4&t=>
- Bonus material: a rather inadvertent, egregious “tackle” committed against Karl...by a teammate!
- Hosted a Meet & Greet event for new officers with ~60 attendees as well as a handover meeting to officially pass the baton
- Working on finalizing the budget for the year
- Hosted the ever-popular Halloween party Friday, October 26th

Minutes drafted and signed by **Gavin S. Davies**.

Regular reminders & useful links:

- **APS-DPF** calls on to physicists to get involved in APS/DPF activities. Currently, the DPF is organizing a response to the European Strategy Group’s call for scientific white papers. DPF will also be organizing the next “Snowmass” community planning process, for which activities will start next year.
- Users are also requested to participate in the [PRD journal survey](#)
- FNAL Housing options: <https://fermipoint.fnal.gov/service/TravelSystem/SitePages/Lodging%20Near%20Fermilab.aspx>
- Offsite housing: [Candlewood Suites Hotel reservation \(Warrenville, IL\)](#)
- Frontier Pub: <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/>
- Fermilab Users Slack: <https://fermilab-users.slack.com>