



Fermilab Users Executive Committee meeting minutes December 7th, 2018

Agenda: <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/18553/>

The meeting began at 8:30 am CT.

Attendees

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

Directorate: Tim Meyer, Alison Markovitz

Washington: Ben Kallen

FSPA: Karl Warburton, Mike Wallbank, Barbara Yaeggy, Andy Furmanski

Users Office: Kim Pearce

Global Services: Griselda Lopez

Cybersecurity: Irwin Gaines

Chair's Report

Gavin Davies reported.

- Deputy chairperson roles remain unfilled for the Users Meeting and Quality of Life subcommittees and will be filled by the next meeting.
- A UEC-FSPA joint Meet & Greet event was established last year. We plan to continue this new tradition and planning is underway. Look for more information in the New Year
- We will review UEC policies in the New Year, notably the policy that relates to the determination of subcommittee chairpersons given our experience during this years establishment of these roles.
- Today we had a special guest: Irwin Gaines, Fermilab's Chief Information Security Officer, talking to us about cybersecurity.
- The next UEC meeting is January 18th, 2019.

Report from Directorate

Tim Meyer reported.

- Requested feedback on a proposal to extend Users Center hours. Positive feedback given, and Directorate will look into the possibility of piloting this in the New Year. Exactly what facilities will be open (definitely no bar or kitchen area)

will be decided in full consultation with relevant parties including security measures (likely need to install a card system for access via Fermilab ID). The idea is to create a safe, communal area for users to use out of hours.

- A general climate survey is being established with a 3rd party expert that will be sent to employees-only. It will likely be no more than 60 questions. UEC expressed the need for a survey for all Users – at a minimum UEC will try to provide such a survey, possibly at the Users Meeting. More information on this as the plans shore up.

Report from Government Relations SC

Fernanda Psihas reported.

- Washington D.C. trip dates: **March 18th – 22nd, 2019.**
- Thanks to Kim Pearce, hotel rooms are blocked – details to attendees soon.
- Ongoing usparticlephysics.org material development: community feedback anticipated in January.
- Improvements ongoing and on schedule for WHIPS.
- The trip wiki pages have moved to the WHIPS area: <https://www.uec-whips.org/wiki/>.
- Some 2017 details: Out of the 535 offices, 161 have non-zero relevance scores. We met with 135 and delivered at least 1 packet. We scheduled 389 meetings with ~53 people. We assigned and not visited 115 offices. 43 out of 54 attendees did not schedule 1 or more assignments.
- January will see weekly meetings on logistics, materials, and training. Rapid-fire feedback for materials will happen in mid-January.
- Social Media and office conduct: As participants on this effort, we have a responsibility to the HEP community. Expressing our opinions is our right and our responsibility. Please be mindful of your manner of approach, staying on message, your social media content, etc. If you are contacting an office as a UEC member or associated with the HEP community effort the message content needs to be seen by the committee.

Report from Quality of Life SC

Oli Gutsche reported.

- Housing Allocation Committee Member: Oliver Gutsche
- Food Advisory Committee Member: José Palomino (FSPA)
- Discussion about medical support for users: FNAL medical office does not treat non-work-related issues, refers to off-site doctors. Users in general have problems navigating the US health system and insurances, for example users buy insurances that are cost effective but have high deductibles – asked Benefits Office for recommendations.
- Updates forthcoming to How-to guide for users and Living on site documents with clarified information
- Discussed outstanding user feedback awaiting responses. Oli organized into categories, priorities, and responsibilities.

- Griselda and Oli will start looking into mechanics of feedback; potentially ServiceNow to track feedback and publish knowledge base articles.
- Feedback to be posted in minutes also going forward.

Report from Education & Public Outreach SC

Saptaparna Bhattacharya reported.

- Meet biweekly and have come up with long- and short-term goals/objectives for the EPO SC in the upcoming year
- Providing training development/support for DC trip is the highest priority.
- Ideas for a “universal” volunteer database continue and may be piloted at the Users Meeting – still need to discuss with all parties that may be interested on best format

Report from Users Meeting SC

Leo Aliaga Soplin reported.

- 52nd Users Meeting dates: **June 12th – 13th, 2019**
- Six months remain to organize the event. Still in the early phase of collecting new ideas and establishing a theme. Planning efforts to ramp up in January.
- Met with the Conference Office on December 18th to establish budget– report at next meeting.
- Met with Tim Meyer and discussed further ideas and plans. Main points raised were concern about attendance, proposed new topics such as access control, international participation, and possible report on Community Standards.

Special item: Cybersecurity

Irwin Gaines reported.

- Excellent presentation from Irwin. Highly recommend users read the slides on Indico – highlights:
- Rebranding of the former computer security team: the Cybersecurity team. All communication to cybersecurity AT fnal.gov, including incident reports, phishing reports or questions, other cybersecurity questions, etc.). Emphasis on partnership between cybersecurity team, management, and employees.
<http://securityawareness.fnal.gov>
- Cybersecurity is everyone’s responsibility
- Phishing: Forged email trying to induce the recipient to click on a link which will either download malicious software to their computer (or mobile device) or take the user to a seemingly legitimate website to “phish” for user credentials or other personal information.
 - o Slides provide examples of phishing exercises
 - o Click rates are still higher than we would like, but overall performance is improving. Users reporting phishes has gone way up. Keep reporting!
 - o Repeat offenders be a problem, considering **137 users** fell for both the UPS and the FedEx shipping phishes, and 50 still fell for the USPS phish.
 - o Regular phishing campaigns will continue to be implemented – some will use

varied attack vectors. There will be consequences to users when they repeatedly “fail” a phishing exercise.

- o URL “defanging” service being implemented from ProofPoint
- MFA and VPN: Multi-Factor Authentication and Virtual Private Network
 - o MFA is the use of at least two of three possible modalities for identification: something you know (a password); something you have (smartcard or phone); something you are (fingerprints).
 - o Recent cyber-attacks have highlighted a possible vulnerability in VPN access to the lab, which presently only requires use of the services password that is also used for email access.
 - o Current MFA upgrade project will
 - Switch to a single token (Yubikey) for most access (so no need for two types of tokens)
 - Satisfy DOE requirements for authentication assurance
 - Extend to additional systems (in particular VPN)
 - o MFA for VPN Project in initial stages, in particular we need to understand use cases for remote science access to data acquisition and analysis systems. Will take several months to roll out credentials to all VPN users.
 - o Will be reaching out to user community to identify who needs to use VPN and what devices they will be using for this access.
 - o Watch FermiNews and VPN users mailing list for updated information over next several months. VPN already accepts Yubikey and RSA authentication. Pilot users will be issued Yubikey tokens in January, RSA tokens already available at Service Desk. Volunteers for pilot program eagerly accepted.

Report from FSPA

Barbara Yaeggy reported.

- FSPA have established roles for the year.
- Hosted a successful Thanksgiving Pot Luck on November 20th – about 50 attendees at the Users Center with a turkey and drinks provided by FSPA and other contributed sides and dishes to give a very international flavor and feel to the event. First co-hosted event with Tania from Frontier Pub and both parties pleased with the success and looking forward to future events.
- Hosted Holiday Party on December 12th – will be reported on at next meeting.
- Working on future community awareness events and started initial New Perspectives planning.

Report from Washington

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

Overall Implications of the 2018 Mid-term Elections

- As anticipated, Democrats regained control of the House of Representatives while the Republicans slightly expanded their majority in the Senate.
- With a divided Congress beginning next year, the House is widely expected to use subpoenas, oversight hearings, and investigations to examine issues in the White

House and among the federal agencies.

- One of the chief concerns for the research community will be to rebuild some of the key champions who will vacate committee posts, who lost in swing districts, or who participated in bipartisan caucuses around top issues
- Science champions such as Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman John Culberson (R-TX) and House Science Research and Technology Subcommittee Chairwoman Barbara Comstock (R-VA) lost their races along with champions such as Rep. Randy Hultgren (R-IL) and Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL).
 - o Perhaps most impactful from an HEP perspective was the loss of Rep. Hultgren, who was a major champion for the National Laboratories and DOE research more generally.
 - o Chairman Culberson was also perhaps the most vocal champion for NSF among House Republicans.
- With the new Democratic majority in the House, current Energy-Water Appropriations Subcommittee ranking member Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) will assume leadership over the subcommittee. On the Senate side, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) are expected to remain Energy-Water chairman and ranking member, respectively.
- With Rep. Culberson's loss, the positions of chair and ranking member of CJS are unfilled. Candidates to lead the subcommittee include current ranking member Rep. Jose Serrano (D-NY) and Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA), another member of the subcommittee. Sens. Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) are expected to remain chair and ranking member of Senate CJS, respectively.
- For the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee, which has authorization jurisdiction over DOE, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) is expected to remain chairwoman. Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) will replace outgoing Sen. Nelson as ranking member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation (CST) Committee, thereby vacating the position of ENR ranking member. She will be replaced by Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV).
 - o In the 116th Congress, ENR may consider companion legislation for the Department of Energy Science and Innovation Act (H.R. 5905), which passed the House in June 2019 and would provide an updated authorization for Office of Science programs, including additional support for fundamental research across all six Office of Science program areas and authorization of funding for large-scale scientific facilities and experiments including LBNF/DUNE.
- The House Science, Space, and Technology Committee is set to enter a new era with current Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) retiring and the House flipping control to Democrats. Current ranking member Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) is expected to become chairwoman while current House Energy Subcommittee chair Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX) is seeking to become ranking member of the full committee.
 - o Democrats are preparing an ambitious agenda related to authorizing key programs at NSF And DOE among other agencies, including through a potential

new COMPETES/Advancing Innovation and competitiveness Act (AICA) bill to authorize NSF and STEM education programs and support for DOE Office of science research infrastructure and authorization of individual applied energy offices.

o AI may also be a salient issue for the Committee in the 116th Congress, with AI research and development legislation being drafted.

Outlook for Final FY 2019 Appropriations

- Seven out of 12 FY 2019 appropriations bills remain unresolved, and the agencies under their jurisdiction (including NSF) are operating under a continuing resolution that expires on December 21st [it has now expired].
- President Trump is insistent upon including \$5 billion for a border wall in any final FY 2019 appropriations deal, a sum which Democrats will not support. With Congress deadlocked over this issue, a partial government shutdown seems more likely unless congressional leaders from both parties can strike a deal with one another and with the Administration to either finalize all the remaining FY 2019 appropriations bills or pass another stopgap funding bill.
 - o In the event of a shutdown, only the agencies funded under the seven unresolved FY 2019 appropriations bills will be affected. This means that while NSF will close, DOE will remain open since the FY 2019 Energy-Water Appropriations bill was passed in September [this has since occurred].

Other Congressional Updates:

- Congress has released a conference version of the National Quantum Initiative Act, which will authorize OSTP to oversee and coordinate a government-wide National Quantum Initiative that will involve research activities supported by NSF, DOE, and NIST. Given that the bill has bipartisan support in both chambers, passage before the end of the year is likely.

Agency Personnel

- Dr. Chris Fall, who has been nominated to lead the Office of Science, and Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, who has been nominated to lead OSTP, will be part of a larger package of noncontroversial nominees that the Senate will try to pass before December 21st.

Other Advocacy Activities

- On December 4th, representatives from the Chicago Quantum Exchange (CQE) held Hill briefings for members of the Illinois congressional delegation. Joe Lykken represented Fermilab. Discussion during the briefings centered on the collective strength that CQE's member institutions (Fermilab, Argonne National Lab, U. of Chicago, and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) can bring to bear on advancing quantum information science research and development, and the role of the federal government in supporting quantum research.
 - o Attendees in the House included staff from the offices of Reps. Bill Foster (D),

Dan Lipinski (D), Adam Kinzinger (R), Rodney Davis (R), Darin LaHood (R), John Shimkus (R), Bobby Rush (D), Mike Quigley, and Jan Schakowsky (D).
o Attendees at the Senate briefing only included staff from the office of Sen. Dick Durbin (D).

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

The UEC wishes you all happy holidays and a Happy New Year!

Regular reminders & useful links:

- Users are requested to participate in the [PRD journal survey](#)
- Security awareness: <http://securityawareness.fnal.gov> (on-site, or VPN required)
- 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>