



Fermilab Users Executive Committee meeting minutes April 19th, 2019

Agenda: <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/20486/>

The meeting began at 8:30 am CT.

Attendees

UEC: Gavin Davies, Fernanda Psihas, Kirsty Duffy, Brian Nord, Cindy Joe, Saptaparna Bhattacharya (remote), Oli Gutsche, Leo Aliaga (remote), David Martinez (remote), Sarah Demers (remote)

Directorate: Christopher Mossey, Alison Markowitz (remote)

Washington: Ben Kallen

FSPA: Karl Warburton, Mike Wallbank, Barbara Yaeggy

Global Services: Griselda Lopez, Tara Turner

Users Office: Kim Pearce

Diversity and Inclusion: Mario Lucero

Chair's Report

Gavin Davies reported.

- Bravo to everyone and a huge thank you to all for their support. This is a great effort of the combined forces of SLUO, USLUA, UEC, and support from the URA. Many people to thank (see Government Relations SC update) but a special thank you to Fernanda and Kirsty for their tremendous effort leading the trip on behalf of Fermilab UEC, and to Kim Pearce for her heroic administrative support.
- The annual Users Meeting is the next priority event for the UEC
- UEC subcommittees urged to document for future members.
- Two special items on the agenda: Fermilab Lab Resource Groups presented by Mario Lucero from the Fermilab D&I office, and UEC Policy voting (we ran out of time for the latter – postponed to future meeting).
- Representing the Directorate this week we welcomed Christopher Mossey, Deputy Director for the Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility and Fermilab's Chief Engineer.
- The next UEC meeting is May 17th, 2019.

Report from Directorate

[Chris Mossey](#) reported

- There's lots of construction happening in South Dakota for the LBNF effort, which includes a fix of the old mining system necessary for excavation
- Last May, [Patrick Weber joined to lead Fermilab's South Dakota Services Division](#).
- To support Fermilab services provided for LBNF, DUNE and other DOE-funded experiments that will operate at Sanford Lab, Fermilab has established a new organizational unit there.
- We discussed coordination of user representation with the SD Services Division, another users organization? Representation on the Fermilab UEC? Open dialogue will continue on this front

Special Item: Laboratory Resource Groups (LRGs)

Mario Lucero reported.

- Mario is Fermilab Diversity & Inclusion Specialist from the Talent Acquisition, Diversity & Inclusion (TADI) Office
- Goals for FY2019
 - **Strategic Partnerships** – working with community organisations and leaders to target/support underrepresented minorities and women in STEM fields
 - [Laboratory Resource Groups \(LRGs\)](#) – building and supporting an inclusive organizational culture at Fermilab
- LRGs: volunteer networks led by the Fermi-community. Resources for building a diverse and inclusive workforce aligned with the organization's mission, values, and goals: Recruitment, Retention, Talent/Leadership Development, and Outreach

Chapters Associated with National Organizations

- Fermilab Society of Women Engineers (fSWE)
- Fermilab Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (fSHPE)

Laboratory Resources Groups (LRGs):

- Fermilab Asian/Pacific American (FAPA) Community
- African-American/Black Alliance
- Hispanic/Latino Forum
- Inclusivity Journal Club
- Spectrum (LGBTQ+) Community
- Veterans Group
- Women's Initiative
- Young Professionals
- Biases, conscious or unconscious, are learned social stereotypes that have real effects in the workplace. The [Inclusion Matters: Unpacking Bias. Building Inclusion. series](#) explores individual, organizational and societal factors that influence the intersection of diversity, equity and inclusion. Designed to provide practical tools and resources that interrupt bias and promote workplace inclusion.
 - Lab employees are required to attend one course in the series to satisfy the training (ITNA) requirement of Inclusion Matters – consider extending to all Users – but encourage all Users to attend these informative lectures.

Report from Quality of Life SC

Oli Gutsche reported.

- Since the March meeting we have 31 resolved items:
<https://uec.fnal.gov/internal/qol-feedback/>
- Plan to work with the Benefits Office to check feasibility of providing medical insurance guidance to the user community. This is seen as a significant challenge for the non-employee user community
- Phone contact numbers, also for users that are not Fermilab employees, have been added to the Fermilab Statement of Community Standards, based on feedback
- Reminder of Fermilab Statement of Community Standards
 - o Available under policies webpage:
<http://news.fnal.gov/fermilab-at-work/policies/>
 - o Direct link:
<http://directorate-docdb.fnal.gov/cgi-bin/RetrieveFile?docid=174>

Report from Users Meeting SC

Leo Aliaga reported.

- 52nd Users Meeting dates: **June 12th – 13th, 2019**
- Discussed keynote speaker, posters, panels and other fun stuff planned to make the Users Meeting as inclusive as possible – event agenda being finalized, requests for speakers sent out
- This year we would like to recognize the efforts of all community members in contributing to Fermilab's scientific and technological success. Our aim is for everyone, no matter their role, to feel welcome and included
"Your community, your science."
It's about everyone that makes it happen"
- Registration is open (and free): <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/20244/registration>
 - o Registration deadline: **June 4th, 2019**
- Poster call-for-abstracts open:
 - o Poster abstract deadline: **May 19th, 2019**
- The Users Meeting is for **everyone** in the user community

Report from FSPA

Deepika Jena reported.

- Spring Potluck event was well attended with over 35 children partaking in the Easter egg hunt
- 5 FSPA officers joined the DC trip in Washington
- [New Perspectives 2019](#): June 10-11, 2019
 - o Register by June 3rd!!
 - o Talk abstract deadline extended to May 17th
- Organized a Career Event: Friday, April 26. Seminar from Michelle Mathis, Fermilab alum and current Research Staff Member at the Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA).

Report from Washington

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

Outlook for Final FY 2019 Appropriations

- On February 14, Congress finally passed a seven-bill “minibus” spending package that provided full appropriations for the remainder of FY 2019, finally bringing the FY 2019 appropriations process to a close following the longest government shutdown in U.S. history.
- Now that they are fully operating, NSF and the other agencies affected by the shutdown continue to address the backlog of work that built up while they were shuttered.

President’s FY 2020 Budget Request

- On March 11, 2019, President Trump released his third budget proposal to Congress. The FY2020 budget request reflects the political priorities of the Trump Administration and kicks off the congressional budget and appropriations process.
- As anticipated, the request proposes drastic cuts to many of the non-defense federal agencies of interest to the research, education and healthcare communities to help pay for increases in defense spending.
- However, Congress is expected to continue the trend of rejecting most of the proposed budget cuts. It is ultimately up to Congress to decide which proposals to embrace, modify, or reject as part of the annual appropriations process.
- The request would provide DOE with \$31.7 billion, a \$4 billion reduction from the FY 2019 enacted level.
 - o Consistent with the Trump Administration’s priority to grow defense spending, DOE’s defense programs, primarily under the NNSA, would grow by \$940 million (4 percent) and make up an unprecedented 73 percent of all DOE funding.
 - o This proposed growth would come at the expense of fundamental research and applied energy programs which would be down \$4.7 billion (35 percent) compared to the FY2019 enacted level.
 - o The budget request would cut the Office of Science by \$1.04 billion, or 16 percent, compared to the FY 2019 enacted level.
 - o High Energy Physics (HEP) would be funded at \$768 million under the President’s request, a decrease of \$212 million or 21.6 percent below the FY2019 enacted level.
 - o Funding for LBNF/DUNE would be reduced by \$26 million for a total of \$104 million and PIP-II would be funded at \$25 million, a reduction of \$10million.
 - o While funding for HEP’s core programming would be cut, the budget proposes increases for artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum information science (QIS) at \$15 million and \$38 million, respectively.
- NSF would be funded at \$7.1 billion in FY 2020, a 13 percent or \$1 billion cut below the FY 2019 enacted level. Deep cuts are proposed across the board to NSF

programs.

- o Research and Related Activities (R&RA) would see a 13.1 percent cut, which would impact all six of the R&RA directorates.
- o Funding for the Mathematical and Physics Sciences (MPS) Directorate, which houses the Division of Physics (PHY), would be cut by \$246 million or 16.5 percent. PHY would incur a disproportional cut, falling by \$63.3 million or 20.4 percent.

Outlook for FY 2020 Appropriations

- The government is currently funded under a budgetary framework that sets overall spending caps for FY 2018 and FY 2019. However, this deal will expire on September 30, 2019.
- Congress will then have to pass a subsequent budget deal in order to avert the return of sequestration and the resulting \$126 billion discretionary spending cut that is mandated under the original Budget Control Act of 2011.
- Further complicating the path forward for a new budget deal is the fact that the federal deficit is projected to exceed \$1 trillion by FY 2020. This is due to a combination of spending increases over the last two years and tax cuts which were enacted through the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

UEC Advocacy

- The UEC visit to Washington, DC in March was a great success! The Executive Director of URA offered the trip organizers and participants high praise during a recent meeting of the URA Board of Trustees.
- The initial advocacy stage of the FY 2020 appropriations process is now over, but it is likely that the UEC will have to reengage with Congress during the fall if/when a two-year budget deal materializes and appropriations bills are renegotiated.

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

Regular reminders & useful links:

- Security awareness: [http://securityawareness.fnal.gov \(on-site, or VPN required\)](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 \(Warrenville, IL\)](Candlewood Suites Hotel reservation (Warrenville, IL))
- Frontier Pub: <https://www.facebook.com/thefrontierpub/>
- 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>