



Fermilab Users Executive Committee meeting minutes February 8th, 2019

Agenda: <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/19712/>

The meeting began at 8:30 am CT.

Attendees

UEC: Gavin Davies, Leo Aliaga, Fernanda Psihas, Kirsty Duffy, Brian Nord, Saptarna Bhattacharya, Oli Gutsche, Jiyeon Han, Sarah Demers (remote), David Martinez

Directorate: Tim Meyer, Kate Gregory

Washington: Ben Kallen

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

Global Services: Griselda Lopez

Users Office: Kim Pearce

Guest Attendance: Bryan Ramson

Chair's Report

Gavin Davies reported.

- Debrief on future planning for Meet and Greets. Plan to do them annually, but with more advance planning.
- The UEC met this week with Fermilab's new Chief Operating Officer Kate Gregory.
- The next UEC meeting is March 15th, 2019.

Report from Quality of Life SC

Oli Gutsche reported.

- [QoL website](#) has been updated to reflect membership, and to note various contacts for Fermilab Organization departments.
- Introduced a new [feedback page](#) that lists open and resolved feedback
 - o Restricted to on-site access (VPN).
 - o Auto-generated from feedback google sheets document
 - o Users can submit feedback via [webform](#) or send to uec-feedback@fnal.gov
- Encourage users to check out feedback page (individual responses sent to posters via email once resolved).
- Report from Campus Facility Planning Board including what the board does:

“The purpose of the Campus and Facility Planning Board (CFPB) is to ensure proper coordination, communication, prioritization of facility projects and other campus enhancements that ensure the laboratory is most efficiently and effectively using its resources to address the identified mission. The CFPB also acts as a steward for the Fermilab Campus Master Plan to ensure coherent evolution of the campus.”

- o Consider a CFPB report at the annual Users Meeting
- The Super Bowl night was well attended which was great since it was a pilot program to look to expand future events.
- 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**
- Keynote speakers discussed, started discussing possible agenda, floated themes and set out timeline for poster abstract submissions, registration etc.
- The Users Meeting is for **everyone** in the user community (that includes employees!)

Special item: Safe & Respectful Environments

Roundtable discussion including Bryan Ramson (Fermilab)

- Presented current purpose and goals that are under consideration for a joint FSPA-UEC driven initiative that would also shepherd/formalize the EDI seminar series (this series was initiated by Midhat Farooq in 2018 and subsequently led by Bryan Ramson in 2019).
- Purpose: to promote an environment of respect and understanding, facilitate behaviors that improve the work environment for everyone
- Goals: act as hub for Users to discuss concerns, provide feedback. Survey users on general climate and environment at lab, formalize EDI seminar series, develop “in-reach” campaign.
- Discussion raised points pertaining items such as better defining purpose, need for language to establish difference between this committee and departments such as HR, which offices the committee will coordinate with etc
- Responses are being drafted for a further round of discussion.
- The EDI seminar series continues in its present guise with several seminars already having taken place and several planned down the line, with speakers already lined up

Report from Education & Public Outreach SC and Government Relations SC

Joint report: Saptaparna Bhattacharya and Fernanda Psihas reported

- Washington D.C. trip dates: **March 18th – 22nd, 2019.**
- Date and content of the first DC Trip training was reported
- Training Session I: February 18th and 19th (1-4pm)
 - o Trip General Info and Scheduling Meetings broken down into subsections:
 - DC Trip Basics (Fernanda Psihas)
 - WHIPS, connections and assignments (Justin Vasel)
 - Scheduling your primary meetings (Joseph Zennamo)
- Planning a Science Communication talk from Andre Salles for Session II
- Still planning for general volunteer (outreach, tours etc) sign-ups at Users Meeting

Report from FSPA

Deepika Jena reported.

- Everything set for the Chinese New Year party: karaoke competition with some exciting Chinese prizes, dumpling making.
- Kuhn Barn, February 8th, Friday 6pm: Food and beverages served, suggested donation of \$5 (children free) <https://fspa.fnal.gov/events/chinese-new-year/>
- FSPA thanks former FSPA Officer Xuan Chen for her help in organizing the event which occurred in the evening of today's meeting day.
- Considering another Career Event during New Perspectives

Report from Washington

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

FY 2019 Appropriations

- Congress has passed an appropriations package that includes full FY 2019 funding for all the agencies affected by the partial government shutdown and the subsequent short-term continuing resolution.
- This includes the National Science Foundation, which will be funded at \$8.075 billion, an increase of \$308 million or four percent over FY 2018.
 - o Within this amount, \$6.52 billion will be allocated to the Research and Related Activities (R&RA) account, which includes the Division of Physics.

FY 2020 Appropriations

- The passage of the bill paves the way for the FY 2020 appropriations process to get underway. Congress must pass a wider budget deal similar to the one that raised the overall spending caps for FY 2018 and FY 2019. Absent such a deal, appropriations will be cut by \$126 billion.
- The energy science policy community has determined that the community request for the DOE Office of Science in FY 2020 will be \$7 billion, an increase of \$415 million over the FY 2019 enacted level of \$6.585 billion.
- The FY 2020 request for HEP will be \$1.045 billion, an increase of \$65 million or 6.6 percent over the FY 2019 enacted level of \$980 million.
 - o The increase will be necessary to accommodate continued construction of

LBNF/DUNE and other major projects while also making progress on a maintenance backlog.

- o The growth would also ensure that the HEP research budget is protected amid these other priorities.

UEC Advocacy

- The Office of Science and HEP figures mentioned above will form the basis of UEC's request for FY 2020.
- In advance of the UEC trip to DC in mid-March, Lewis-Burke will prepare messaging that emphasizes the importance maintaining robust support for HEP in order to continue making progress on meeting P5 goals.

116th Congress

- New subcommittee assignments have been announced for the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:
 - o Energy – Rep. Conor Lamb (D-PA) will be chair while Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX) will be ranking member
 - o Research and Technology – Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI) will be chair while Rep. Jim Baird (R-IN) will be ranking member

Other Items

- A UEC member brought up a New York Times article that called into question the impact of particle physics research, especially at the LHC:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/23/opinion/particle-physics-large-hadron-collider.html>.

- o UEC members were advised to have counterarguments ready in case the article was brought up during Hill meetings.
- o However, UEC members were also advised not to proactively mention it as it could distract from UEC's overall message about the importance of increasing funding for HEP.

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 \(Warrenville, IL\)](#)
- 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>