



In Memoriam

The UEC was saddened to hear the news that longtime Fermilab scientist-user, APS Fellow, and UEC member Gregory Snow died on May 4 at age 65. A Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Greg was a strong supporter of the UEC through his affiliation with the D0 and CMS experiments. He was a member of the UEC on several occasions, which included chairing the committee 20 years ago:

- 09/97 – 08/99: Chair, 09/98 – 08/99
- 09/12 – 08/14: Users Meeting SC Chair, June '13 and '14
- 09/18 – 05/19

The family has requested that memorial contributions be directed towards the Cosmic Ray Observatory Project (CROP) or to the [Pierre Auger Observatory](#). A family obituary can be viewed, and condolences can be left, [online](#).

Our thoughts and condolences are with Greg's family.

<https://news.fnal.gov/2019/05/in-memoriam-greg-snow/>

<https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/obituary-greg-snow/>

Fermilab Users Executive Committee meeting minutes May 17th, 2019

Agenda: <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/20818/>

The meeting began at 8:30 am CT.

Attendees

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

Directorate: Tim Meyer, Alison Markowitz (remote)

Washington: Ben Kallen, Lindsay Milliken

FSPA: Karl Warburton, Mike Wallbank, José Palomino

Users Office: Kim Pearce

Chair's Report

Gavin Davies reported.

- UEC respected a moment of silence for the passing of UEC member Greg Snow
- Future dates are set for UEC meetings: June 14th, July 19th, August 16th

- All hands on deck for the next few weeks in order to support the final preparations for the Users Meeting
- Going forward the UEC Chair will present quarterly updates to the Directorate
- A special closed session to vote on UEC policies was held at the back end of today's meeting
- The next UEC meeting is June 14th, 2019; day after the Annual Users Meeting

Report from Directorate

Tim Meyer reported.

- DOE has issued an internal memo concerning international science engagement within the National Laboratory system with specific emphasis placed on the development of a Science & Technology risk matrix
 - S&T risk matrix to serve as guide for the labs on what areas should have additional protections
- Working closely with labs to develop the matrix and have focused on the following areas: Artificial Intelligence, Quantum computing, High Performance Computing beyond exa-scale, Gene/Bio, Accelerator Science, Novel Batteries
- Many details remain to be worked out, in coordination with community, to develop and implement effective policies
- At this time, no decision has been made with regard to implementing the protections identified in the S&T risk matrix

Report from Government Relations

Fernanda Psihas reported.

- Preparing a DC trip report for upcoming High Energy Physics Advisory Panel (HEPAP) meeting, May 30-31, Rockville, MD
- HEPAP meetings are open to the public and the meeting's agenda has been posted at: <https://science.osti.gov/hep/hepap/Meetings>

Report from Users Meeting SC

Leo Aliaga reported.

- 52nd Users Meeting dates: **June 12th – 13th, 2019**
- Registration is open and FREE: <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/20244/registration>
 - Registration deadline: **June 4th, 2019**
- UEC thanks Diana Brandonisio (Creative Services), Leah Hesla (Office of Communication), and Mike Wallbank (FSPA) for their help creating the Users Meeting poster
- Thanks to Leah Hesla for helping put together our Fermilab Today article: <https://news.fnal.gov/2019/05/register-for-the-2019-fermilab-users-meeting-june-12-13/>
- 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"

- This year's Keynote Speaker is **Dr. Joe Lykken**, Fermilab's Deputy Director of Research, delivering a talk on Quantum Information Science
- The Users Meeting is for **everyone** in the user community (that includes employees!)

Report from FSPA

Mike Wallbank reported.

- [New Perspectives 2019](#): June 10-11, 2019
 - o Registration closed June 3rd!!
 - o Agenda finalized
- Planned the next "Journeys: Path to the Academy" seminar in the EDI series. The speaker was unable to attend due to unforeseeable circumstances. Keep an eye out for the next in the series in June

Report from Washington

Ben Kallen (Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC) reported. UEC welcomes Lindsay Milliken who has recently joined the team at Lewis-Burke Associates.

FY 2020 House Energy-Water Appropriations Bill

- On May 20, the report accompanying the FY 2020 House Energy-Water appropriations bill was released. The bill was approved by the full House Appropriations Committee on May 21
- DOE would be funded at \$37.1 billion, or \$1.4 billion (3.9 percent), above the FY 2019 enacted level, and \$5.6 billion above the President's budget request
 - o The bill rejected all of the steep cuts proposed by the President's FY 2020 budget request for DOE research and development programs.
 - * All DOE programs, except for Fossil Energy and Nuclear Energy, would see an increase in funding. Fossil Energy and Nuclear Energy would be maintained at FY 2019 levels.
 - * The bill also rejected the budget request's focus on funding only early-stage research, noting that a lack of funding for medium- and late- stage research would prevent the U.S. from fully taking advantage of DOE's technology development capabilities.
- The **Office of Science** would be provided \$6.87 billion, a \$285 million, or 4.3 percent, increase above the FY 2019 enacted level. o This funding would include a competition for **National Quantum Information Science Research Centers**.
 - o The report is supportive of Office of Science-wide **artificial intelligence and machine learning activities** without allocating funding.
- **High Energy Physics** would receive \$1.045 billion, an increase of \$65 million over the FY 2019 enacted level and \$277 million above the President's budget request. Note that this is the exact level requested by HEP, an outcome that speaks to the value of UEC's grassroots advocacy efforts.
 - o This topline level would support increases for the construction of **LBNF/DUNE** and **PIP-II** accelerator upgrade necessary to keep both projects on schedule.

- o The projects would be funded at \$171 million and \$60 million, respectively.
- o This funding level would also accommodate an increase for research activities, as well as facilities maintenance and modernization needs.
- o \$98 million would also be provided for **HL-LHC** upgrades at CERN.
- The full Lewis-Burke analysis of the bill can be found [online](#).

FY 2020 House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill

- NSF would be funded at \$8.636 billion, which is \$561.1 million or 6.9 percent above the FY 2019 level and \$1.57 billion above the President's FY 2020 budget request. This increase would be the largest for the foundation in both dollar and percentage terms since 2010.
- NSF's **Research and Related Activities (R&RA) account** would be funded at \$7.11 billion, 9.0 percent above the FY 2019 level and \$1.44 billion above the President's FY 2020 budget request. Areas of support include:
 - o **Quantum information science and technology** related to the National Quantum Initiative as well as support high-performance computing investments.
 - o **High Energy Physics** through the Particle Physics Project Prioritization Panel projects, operation of large facilities, and other small-medium sized projects.
 - o The Committee would direct NSF to develop a report on ways to focus investments in **artificial intelligence** and also urges the agency to invest in ethical and safe ways to develop the technology.
- The Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account would be funded at \$223 million, \$72.5 million or 24.5 percent below the FY 2019 level but equal to the President's FY 2020 budget request.
 - o Within this account, \$33 million would be provided for **HL-LHC** upgrades.
- The full Lewis-Burke analysis of the bill can be found [online](#).

Chris Fall's Confirmation as Director of DOE Office of Science

- On May 23, Chris Fall was confirmed as the new Director of the DOE Office of Science. Up to now, the position has been vacant for almost two and a half years.
 - o Chris Fall was previously the Principal Deputy Director of ARPA-E, and he has also worked for the DOD Office of Naval Research.
- Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) placed a hold on Chris Fall's nomination because she did not want DOE to ship weapons-grade plutonium to her state. When DOE agreed to move the materials outside of Nevada, Senator Cortez Masto released the hold on his nomination.

Congressman Dan Lipinski's AI Bill

- Congressman Dan Lipinski (D-IL) has been developing a bill aimed at developing a National AI Initiative similar to the National Quantum Initiative. However, instead of introducing it the House Space, Science, and Technology (HSST) Committee to get their input, he introduced it directly on to the floor of the House.
 - o It is highly unlikely that Congressman Lipinski's bill will move any further since

it circumvented the authority of the Committee.

- o The Committee is in the nascent stages of drafting its own version of an AI R&D bill which they have indicated will take a more holistic approach to the issue by examining ethical issues in addition to fundamental research.

UEC Policies (closed session)

Gavin Davies introduced the voting procedure and slides with policies to be voted on. The policies on the UEC website will be updated post-voting. The voting session did not complete and will continue at the next UEC meeting.

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

Regular reminders & useful links:

- 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/>
- 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>