

Minutes of 9/15 Meeting of the UEC

The 2006-2007 UEC met for the first time on 9/15 with all 13 members present. The returning members are:

Brendan Casey (Brown), Dzero
Maxwell Chertok (UC Davis), CDF/CMS
Tom Diehl (FNAL), Dzero/DES
George Gollin (University of Illinois), ILC
Sacha Kopp (University of Texas), MINOS/Tevatron/LARP
Wyatt Merritt (FNAL), Dzero/DES
Breese Quinn (Ole Miss), Dzero

The new members are:

Ela Barberis (Northeastern), Dzero/CMS
Greg Landsberg (Brown), Dzero/CMS
Kevin Pitts (University of Illinois), CDF
Chris Polly (Indiana), MiniBooNE
Jean Slaughter (FNAL), Tevatron/LARP/CDF
Peter Wittich (Cornell), CDF/CMS

The GSA will shortly elect new officers. Jim Degenhardt and Cristobal Almenar (past GSA officers) were in attendance for this meeting.

Short Summary

The previous year's activities were reviewed for the benefit of the new members, and some new initiatives were discussed. Mel Shochet gave a report on HEPAP activities and Mark Messier discussed Nova. Committee chairs and assignments for the upcoming year were established.

Quality of Life

Tom Diehl, past chair of QoL, gave examples of the previous year's efforts, including a women's dorm wing in Aspen East, an updated Guide to Life at Fermilab by the GSA, and establishing contacts between FNAL and the proposers of the future STAR-link train system servicing the western suburbs. Other items still in progress include Batavia library service for Village residents, expanded recycling, and womens' sports league. The possibility of a Career Night was briefly discussed.

Government Relations

Breese Quinn, past chair of GR, reviewed last year's activities in letter writing and in planning the major trip to DC in conjunction with the SLAC Users' Organization (SLUO). The Spring trip last year covered approximately 140 offices of Senators and Representatives, as well as a visit to Ray Orbach, Robin Staffin, NSF, and the OMB. A similar trip to

DC will be planned for the coming Spring.

Additionally a smaller-scale trip is being planned for October to visit with the OMB/OSTP staff and discuss the FY08 budget. If time allows, select visits will be made to Congressional staffers working for members of the conference committees charged with finalizing the FY07 budget.

Users' Meeting

Brendan Casey, past UM committee chair, reviewed last year's planning for the Users' Meeting. The new committee must begin planning soon for the various keynote speakers that would need to be invited. The 2006 meeting was ambitious in terms of the number of outside speakers invited leading to the appearance of Rep. Biggert, Harold Shapiro, and Norm Augustine that were considered important attractors for attendance at the meeting. There was discussion of the value of the competition for the student talks, which many regarded as among the best talks at the meeting.

Local Congressional Visits

UEC Chair Kopp reviewed an initiative he's begun in conjunction with other UECs at other national labs. In March 2006 the Chairs of all the UECs of the DOE labs (JLab, SLAC, SSRL, BNL AGS, BNL NSLS, ANL APS, LBL-ALS, PNNL, LANL, ORNL-SNS, FNAL) met and discussed ways in which we could better work together. The meeting discussed the rising awareness of the need for supporting the physical sciences.

Subsequently, the UECs planned to initiate visits with their Representatives and Senators shortly after this year's election. Both Senators from a state, as well as all Representatives with a plausible connection (campus or faculty residences in their districts, for example), may be contacted. The goal is to have several faculty and students from multiple departments within a single university working at different national labs all march into the office of the same member of Congress together and talk about user facilities run by the DOE Office of Science, and about physical science support from DOE and NSF.

The visits would be fairly general, focused on some important themes we feel are important for all members of Congress to appreciate:

- We thank the Congress for all its efforts to raise the priority given to physical sciences, the DOE SC and the NSF.
- The DOE SC operates user facilities which, though not in the member's district, are essential for university-based research.
- The DOE SC and NSF are the largest sources of support for physical sciences in the US.
- Students on our campuses benefit strongly from these facilities and the training offered using those resources.

These are issues on which we wish to educate our lawmakers, not only for this budget cycle, but for future years which are all needed to sustain a 10-year doubling.

We would like members of the Fermilab community to go on these visits. It is important to convey the excitement for our own field of research, and to show our unified support for the Office of Science, NSF, and physical sciences. Already, approximately 40 Fermilab user groups have agreed to participate. The Outreach Committee was charged with coordinating Fermilab users in this project.

Visit with Mel Shochet

Mel Shochet, chair of HEPAP, joined the UEC by telephone to provide a brief summary of the July 6-7 HEPAP meeting and a preview of the Oct 12-13 meeting.

July meeting: HEPAP received reports from several subpanels, as well as heard a report from Harold Shapiro, chair of the EPP2010 panel. The HEPAP subpanel reports were delivered by Jay Marx on the need for maintaining Advanced Accelerator R&D, Rocky Kolb on the Dark Energy Task Force, and Gene Beier from NuSAG. Abe Seiden gave an interim report from P5. Of interest to the Fermilab community, P5 made several recommendations in connection with its initial charge of determining whether it is still useful to run the SLAC B Factory in FY08: their recommendation to run the B Factory was made along with a set of other priorities they articulated for FY08. In particular, they recommended full support for LHC operations, significant funding for ILC research, and construction starts for DES, CDMS-II, Daya Bay, and NOvA. The second day of HEPAP consisted of reports on the status of the ILC, including Barry Barish on international coordination, Gerry Dugan on US ILC activities, Paul Grannis on the US bid to host, and Jon Bagger on the formation of an ILC communications group. Additionally, new charges were issued for two new HEPAP subpanels: Homer Neal will chair a subpanel on the DOE and NSF university programs, and HEPAP will coordinate with DOE on the evaluation of the HEP program's success or failure to meet various Program Assessment Rating Tools (PARTs) issued by OMB (an example -- measuring the top mass to 3 GeV). The UEC discussed possible ways to give input to the subpanel on university programs.

October Meeting: HEPAP will hear from several subcommittees, including Bill Molzen on the evaluation of HEP's performance against the OMB PART program, Homer Neal giving an interim report on the university program, Hank Sobel on the beginning of a Dark Matter SAG, Abe Seiden giving the final P5 report with a roadmap for the next decade, and Guy Wormser will report on the European HEP planning document approved by the CERN Council this summer. Additionally, HEPAP will hear from NASA on their astrophysics program.

For more information on HEPAP, visit their website at:
<http://www.er.doe.gov/hep/hepap.shtm>

Update on NOvA Experiment

Mark Messier, co-spokesperson of the NOvA experiment, updated us on their progress. The collaboration is about 140 physicists, mostly from the US, with one French, Brazilian, Russian, German, and Greek institution. The INFN is currently considering supporting 5 institutions and approximately 20 physicists in joining NOvA.

The experiment hopes to observe the transition of muon to electron neutrino flavors, of importance for telling us the mass hierarchy of neutrinos as well as possibly whether there is CP violation in the lepton sector. The experiment requires a 20-25 kTon detector located off the central axis of the NuMI beam, approximately 810km away (this is further than the MINOS experiment, which is 735.4km and on-axis). The off-axis location, Ash River (MN) results in a narrow neutrino energy distribution at the detector, which facilitates the $\nu(\mu) \rightarrow \nu(e)$ search. The detector cost is about \$200M, and the experiment also benefits from foreseen upgrades to the NuMI beam enabling operations at 700kW proton power (and possibly 1.2MW) once the collider program terminates.

The experiment has undergone reviews from the DOE, the Neutrino Scientific Advisory Group (NuSAG) (a subpanel of P5), EPP2010, and P5. All reviews have been favorable and P5 recommended a 2008 start of construction (see report from Mel Shochet above). The project was recommended for DOE CD1 Feb. '06, and the expectation is to have the CD2 review in Feb. '07 and the CD3 (start construction) in Oct. '07. A prototype detector to be operated in the NuMI beam on site at Fermilab is to be completed in 2007.

Ad Hoc Committee Assignments

Chris Polly and Jean Slaughter agreed to serve on a Fermilab Information Categorization Policy Committee as our UEC representatives. Tom Diehl agreed to serve on a Fermilab Committee on Space Needs as our UEC representative.

New UEC Office Position

UEC Chair Kopp proposed a new position of Vice Chair with a 1 year term. The purpose of the position will be to share some of the work with the chair. This motion was approved on a trial basis for this year.

UEC Officer Elections

The following individuals were elected for positions for the 2006-2007 year.

- Chair of Government Relations Subcommittee: Breese Quinn
- Chair of Outreach Subcommittee: Brendan Casey
- Chair of International Users Subcommittee: Ela Barberis
- Chair of Quality of Life Subcommittee: Tom Diehl

Chair of Users Meeting Subcommittee: Greg Landsberg
Secretary: Chris Polly
Webmaster: Wyatt Merritt
UEC Vice Chair: Jean Slaughter
UEC Chair: Sacha Kopp

Subcommittee Assignments

Following are the subcommittees for the coming year:

Outreach: CASEY, Wittich, Polly, Landsberg, Quinn, Slaughter, Pitts,
Barberis (Kopp)
Government Relations: QUINN, Wittich, Merritt, Chertok, Gollin, Diehl,
(Kopp)
International Users: BARBERIS, Chertok, (Kopp)
QoL: DIEHL, Barberis, Casey, Merritt, Slaughter (Kopp)
Users Meeting: LANDSBERG, Polly, Chertok, Pitts, Casey, Merritt, (Kopp)

AOB

Wyatt Merritt proposed that the UEC adopt some form of ranked or preferential voting system, like those in use at D0 and CDF for spokesperson election, for the UEC elections next spring. She will bring more information on such systems to a future meeting.

Proposed Dates for Future UEC Meeting

October 6, 2006
November 3, 2006
December 8, 2006

Submitted by: Chris Polly, UEC Secretary