

## **Minutes of the Feb 5, 2010 UEC Meeting**

**Attendees:** William Wester, Trisha Vahle, Dave Schmitz, Mayly Sanchez, Heather Ray, Ron Moore (phone), Ashutosh Kotwal, Mike Hildreth (video), Heather Gerberich, Marjorie Corcoran (video), Todd Adams, Carley Kopecky (GSA), Ken Smith (GSA).

### **Discussion with the Directorate** (Pier Oddone, Young-Kee Kim, Greg Bock):

Q: What do we know about Fermilab staff not getting any of the DOE early career grants?

GB: There were not a lot of awards to HEP labs, but we are excited about Chris Mauger's award. We will look to improve next year's applications.

Q: Was there mentoring of young scientists by senior scientists?

GB: Yes, we will evaluate if it was enough.

Q: The process seems to go around the PAC, are ways to integrate the applications with priorities of the PAC?

GB: We don't know yet. Young-Kee is thinking about this.

*(Pier and Young-Kee arrive after an important meeting.)*

PO: We may invite Glen Crawford to talk about the process and get some feedback. Two FNAL proposals were in the top ten which is pretty good. We will think about whether to submit so many next year or to filter out the best. It is difficult for someone in a large project to stand out. Last year Aaron Chou got an OJI which was the first to go to someone from a lab.

YKK: It was a good learning experience for everyone to try.

Q: Do you have anything to tell us about the budget?

GB: It looks like we got a little help on non-accelerator issues. We are starting to plan for our budget trip to DC in a few weeks.

Q: What about the various pots of money the DOE is now funding from? Is this causing any issues?

PO: These pots are making it harder for people to move around between research areas. Some fields are growing with respect to the number of people, but not budget. We support healthy competition for the best projects/grants/people, but too rigid is bad. We now have 42 funding categories, where years ago there were basically four categories.

Q: There seems to be a move to put control in DOE rather than lab directors, how do you respond?

PO: We would love to get \$400M and decide how to spend it wisely, but that is not how the system works. Right now we are working to encourage more flexibility in moving people/funds between projects. Some categories of activities at the lab that didn't review as well as everyone would like didn't have a person responsible. Those categories were spread out between groups/projects. We will make sure that in the future there is someone responsible for each category. Dennis Kovar does a good job knowing details of where money goes within the Office of Science which gives greater credibility in Washington and helps our cause.

### **Project X Physics** (Robert Tschirhart):

Bob gave an overview of Project X, concentrating on the non-neutrino parts of program (muons, kaons, neutrons).

Q: Does the kaon program mean keeping the Tevatron cold?

RT: Yes, the current plan is to keep it cold (80 degK) for 2 years (\$6M/year) and then reevaluate operational need or full decommissioning plan. Operating the Tevatron at 150 GeV costs about \$15M/year. Other options that involve using the Main Injector are not as good and would like to dramatically increase the necessary running time.

### **The View from Washington** (Carole McGuire):

CM: The 2010 budget is out with a total around \$3.8T. It will start to tackle deficit issues by freezing domestic discretionary funds for a 10 year period. Science did well within this freeze: 6.8% increase for agencies. The DOE Office of Science got \$5.12B, a +4.4% increase. Basic energy science (BES) got largest increase, but HEP was second lowest with a 2.3% increase of \$18.5M. Some positive signs are funding for Tevatron running, sustained support for ILC, as well as funds for planning and engineering for LBNE and mu2e. There is strong support at DOE for HEP. The Secretary's focus is on energy and renewable energy, but basic sciences held their own. The President's plan involves terminating or reducing 126 programs as part of dealing with the deficit. Congress will likely change this. The UEC/SLUO/UJLUO will need to come to DC in a few weeks and argue the case why we need our full budget request. We have a great story to tell which is good.

CM: Health care, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the results of the Massachusetts election, and mid-term elections will likely cause disarray in Congress this year. This probably means continuing resolutions until after the elections. But Congress is starting hearings now. Workforce development is priority and early career awards are continuing.

Q: The previous view from DC said there would probably not be a continuing resolution. Why the change?

CM: The deficit, elections, etc. will delay things. This past year would have been the year to pass the budget before the fiscal year, but even then we had the final parts passing in December.

Q: Could the budget be delayed until after the new Congress is sworn in?

CM: It is more likely that a lame duck session will be called to finish things in November/December.

Q: Could it mean a flat budget or simple percentage cut is the easiest budget to pass?

CM: That would not be normal and bad form. It would be seen as a failure.

Q: Now that DC trip is imminent, what should we remember to say?

CM: Bridget will say more at the DC trip training session tomorrow, but always start with thank you for your support. The past two year's budget and the recovery act was pretty good for HEP. We should emphasis the practical aspects of our research and STEM education since we will not often be talking with scientists. Remember to go with flow of the conversation and talk about what they want to talk about.

Q: One surprising thing last year was the bad publicity about the LHC, how do we handle that to give a positive message?

CM: We should underscore how technical difficult the LHC is, and that once it gets running we expect exciting results. Also, we can talk about the strong program we have here at US. We can also focus on international nature of the community.

Q: Was there anything surprising in state of union address?

CM: I didn't hear anything really surprising. Energy has become a focus so that was expected.

CM: NSF also did well in President's request. Math and physical science didn't do as well, but the final decisions will come much later.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Local Congressional Visits** (Dave Schmitz): We received only one response/question from the email blast encouraging users to make contact with their representatives. Dave has now become a member of the Users Organizations.

Q: Has anyone gone to visit their Congress representatives at their home offices?

A: The intent of the email was for people to visit during the Presidents' Day break and/or send a letter or call if a visit is not possible. Met with Elizabeth Clements who has updated the FNAL fact sheet. It is linked from the local visit wiki page.

**Quality of Life** (William Wester): We are trying to get word out about Chez Leon. The Chez Leon folks will be putting out a survey in Fermilab Today soon. There was a request for assistance from NALWO about the pool's operations. The bidding process for pool operations is ongoing. The gym has a goal to have 3 new places of equipment (yeah! from the audience). They got rid of one piece of 20 year old equipment already (there was one user complaint).

**International** (Heather Gerberich): We have set a date for an immigration presentation: March 1, noon-1:30 in 1 West with two immigration attorneys. We are considering a possible meeting on U.S. taxes for non-immigrants. Amanda Peterson is presenting talks on visas to various experiments. She met with D0 this morning at their collaboration meeting.

**Users' Meeting** (Mike Hildreth): The Lecture Committee is trying to get Steven Chu or Alexei Filippenko for the public lecture. Bids for catering have gone out.

**GSA** (Carley Kopecky): We hosted a poker night a few weeks ago (no betting, but lots of fun). Aria Meyhoefer asked a question about how to hold a special evening social event in conjunction with women's week in March. It was suggested we (Ron) could set up a meeting between women's organization and Bruce Chrisman.

**Washington DC trip** (Heather Ray): The list of primary contacts is out. There is a long list of very important people who still need covering. The secondary assignments will be made up to last minute. The one-pager is done and parts of the packets are ready. The rest will print soon. The Particle Physics In Pictures (PPIP) book will not be ready until Feb. 15. The important meetings are already organized. Will has updated the wiki. Jon Urheim is organizing spreadsheet of appointments. At the DC Trip training tomorrow we will go over message and have role playing sessions. Advice: get to know your primaries and their voting records.

There was some discussion of a talk by Bill Brinkman about the 2010 budget request.

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Minutes submitted by Todd Adams and Ron Moore.

The next FNAL UEC meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2010.