

## Users Executive Committee meeting minutes for June 17, 2016

The meeting, chaired by Bill Louis, began at 8:30. Jesus Orduna, Thomas Strauss, Fabio Happacher, Minerba Betancourt, Sarah Lockwitz, Georgia Karagiorgi, Mateus Carneiro, Robert Fine, Louise Suter, Sebastian Aderhold, Kim Pearce, Kurt Riesselmann, Katie Yurkewicz, and Linda Spentzouris attended the meeting. Tim Meyer was also present, representing the Directorate.

### **Overview**

Bill Louis gave the chair report, and ran the meeting. He expressed thanks to Thomas, Sarah and the User's Meeting committee for a very successful User's Meeting. Thanks were also given to Minerba and the Quality of Life Sub-Committee for getting vending of good water in the laundry area of the village. The next UEC meeting will be on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the upcoming UEC elections will be discussed then. The nomination deadline for UEC member candidates is July 8<sup>th</sup>; the nominations will go to Kim. Georgia will be in charge of overseeing nominations and voting. After the deadline, once there is a sufficient pool of candidates, they will be contacted about posting their profiles on the web for the elections. There will be three weeks in late July to mid-August when users vote on the new UEC committee members. People continuing to serve on the UEC next year should think about whether they want to run as chair. Also, it was noted that we should consider inviting the chairs of the SLAC and LHC user committees to those UEC meetings prior to the next DC trip when trip planning will take place.

A brief discussion among the committee followed, starting with a report of complaints that GPS and the 3G network don't work well everywhere on site. Thomas reminded us that this issue has been aired previously, and it was determined it is up to the individual service providers to provide better coverage. Reactions to the changes at the User's Center were the next topic. While people like the food now available at the User's Center, there is a general cry to bring the popcorn back. Several members of the UEC heard feedback expressing a widespread desire for restoration of the popcorn. Free popcorn has always been an attraction

for the User's Center, leading to increased patronage - and people want it back. On another topic: while there are some high chairs available for children (it is unknown how many), this is not generally known by customers or all of the User's Center staff.

Note to users: Fermilab wants your feedback on the Frontier Pub at the User's Center! The pub is undergoing upgrades and so it is a good time for feedback while the model is still dynamic. Please visit the following url to make your voice heard:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FCJFRSQ>

### **Report from the Directorate**

Tim Meyer reported for the Directorate. He congratulated all on a successful User's **Meeting** and New Perspectives **meeting**. There is an international campaign to promote neutrinos. Japan is interested in muon-based physics, so there have been fruitful discussions on that topic, as well as on Hyper-K and DUNE. Japan initiated a discussion with Cherry Murray's office at the DOE regarding potential collaborations, and potential U.S. contributions to the ILC project. If this future machine is based on superconducting accelerating structures, Fermilab could contribute in this area. The lab aims to become a premier center for SRF research and development, and there may be an opportunity to participate in SRF research to reduce costs and improve performance via ILC R&D money to support increased research on SRF structures.

The lab is trying to understand where it can economize. For example, should the lab continue to provide cell phones for certain employees who need to be in frequent contact when not on site? The travel budget is also being examined, with the goal of improving planning. One optimization issue is how to ensure that the right people are sent to the right event to get the lab's messages across.

Next year is a special year; it is Fermilab's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Kurt relayed that a Scientific Symposium is planned as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The symposium will last half a day, and will

take place in the same week as the 2017 User's Meeting. The User's Meeting and Symposium receptions could be combined so that there is one really nice big party. Different options for scheduling the Scientific Symposium and the User's Meeting events were discussed. It was noted that it is especially important to determine who will be speaking at the public lecture as early as possible, along with the dates for the User's Meeting. Tim said the Directorates Office should be able to determine the dates in the next several weeks, after the dates for the CERN council have been fixed. Since it took a long time to get a speaker for the public lecture this year (and has in other years), next year the Directorate will be involved to help secure a high profile speaker early for the occasion of the lab's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The User's Office move will have started by the end of 2017. The area currently housing VMS will be renovated first. The entrance will be adjusted to get more sunlight. The User's Office will move to the VMS space, VMS will move to the kicker shop, and the kicker shop will move to A0. Regarding the User's Center, Rob pointed out that FSPA and students are not being consulted on the renovation plans. Tim will put an FSPA member on the planning committees going forward.

### **Report from Washington**

Ben Kallen of Lewis-Burke Associates reported on the news from Washington. While the Energy and Water bill passed the Senate, it failed to pass in the House. The difficulty was that there were policy riders (such as one concerning the purchase of heavy water) and an amendment (to protect LGBT workers from discrimination) that helped cause it to fail. Since the House bill failed, it is likely there will be a continuing resolution from September to December, and hopefully an omnibus bill will be passed in the lame-duck session. Early October is a good time to talk to members of Congress and their staff while they are back home. Lewis-Burke could provide a template of a letter asking for continuing support for HEP. The Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee has highlighted LBNF as a priority. The decision on whether to fund ITER was punted to the next administration. The Senate zeroed out ITER funds, shifting them to HEP. If the money is

restored to ITER, it will be difficult to meet the HEP budget request, since the ITER funding increases match the increases needed by LBNF. The 125M needed for ITER was distributed among Office of Science programs, but LBNF was the only one with a significant increase, so it would be affected more. The House bill maintained ITER, but cut energy and renewable resources funds, and the applied energy programs. That is how they maintained ITER as well as the Office of Science funding. The House bill will not be passed, but it will be used in conference negotiations for the omnibus bill. The House and Senate bills carry equal weight in those negotiations. It is unlikely that Congress would increase the budget to fund both ITER and LBNF project requests. There is almost no discretionary budget, so increases in one program must come at the expense of decreasing another. There is bipartisan support for HEP; and ITER also has bipartisan support, but it is not all that strong. The question is whether ITER project management is good enough for continued U.S. participation. The House and the Senate are in session now and will be until July 5<sup>th</sup>, and then they will be out of session until September. This will be a marathon month after 6 weeks off; it would be nice if the appropriations bill were passed since there is a lame-duck session in December.

### **User's Meeting Sub-Committee**

Thomas Strauss reported that the User's Meeting was a huge success! The attendance this year was the largest since the Tevatron shut down. Some additional people were here for the mu2e review. Users appreciated that it was easier to get on site during the meeting, since gate security was aware of the meeting and adjusted their screening accordingly. The meeting was packed on Wednesday, with fewer people on Thursday. The morning sessions, especially on Thursday, were not well attended. Taking head counts during every talk could be useful for planning future meetings so that the sessions are more evenly populated. There were not as many younger people as were expected during regular sessions.

People did not seem to know about the raffle, and did not show up to collect the prizes. Also, it was not known in a timely fashion that the

speakers had to sign a release form to allow video to be posted. Speakers, including those for New Perspectives, were not aware ahead of time that their presentation was being filmed. They were asked afterward if their presentations could be made public; most were fine with it, but a few had confidential material. In future meetings this should be communicated better and earlier. The pdf files did not allow previewing of the next slide.

Note to users –

Nigel's Users Meeting talk in may be found at this link:

<http://vms.fnal.gov/asset/detail?recid=1942526>

The link to the videos of the New Perspectives presentations can be found here:

<http://vms.fnal.gov/asset/advanced-video?videoCreateDate=&titleText=&presenter=&seriesName=New+perspectives&searchTags=&submit=Submit>

The online video archive can be searched using this link:

<http://vms.fnal.gov/asset/advanced-video>

The YouTube link for the Barry Barish lecture can be found here:

[https://youtu.be/BNIK\\_nSJDyc](https://youtu.be/BNIK_nSJDyc)

There was a suggestion to call the 'User's Meeting' the 'Annual Meeting' instead in order to let Fermilab employees know that they are equally welcome. The feedback from the vendors was positive. They liked being in the atrium and loved the tours. They felt there was good traffic through their locations. There was some non-uniformity in the dimensions of the display material, and it would be useful in future years to give some guidance, especially on the maximum allowable display size (so that all vendors can be visible). A time frame of 1.5 days might be better than 2 days for the vendor displays. The vendors did express the wish that they could talk to more technicians and engineers. It would be worth thinking about how to advertise the event to technicians

and engineers to encourage them to visit the booths. Some vendors would also like the option to have some show and tell, i.e. demonstrations, as well as printed display material. They would like to know more about the program in advance; they might be interested in attending some of the talks. A booth price range between \$800-\$1000 (the same for all vendors) is recommended for next year. It would help to put a sign near the auditorium giving people directions to the registration table. Another addition might be to have TVs outside the auditorium displaying the title of the talk in progress.

There were a few requests for more fruit, cheese, or other low carb snacks at the coffee breaks, although the coffee breaks were generally well received. People did want the option to have tea as well as coffee, and a decaffeinated option, which is an easy request to meet. People liked having coffee available before the session started. The dinner lines were very long. Food was ordered for 450 people, money from the Directorate covered 200 of them, the rest were covered with funds from the vendors. People were happy with the beer this year.

The winner of the Young Scientist Poster Session was David Caratelli from Columbia University on the MicroBooNE experiment; and tied for second place were Federica Bagnascio from the Universita' di Pisa on the CMS experiment, and Gonzalo Diaz Bautista from the University of Rochester on the MINERvA experiment. There were also two honorable mentions, Varuna Sharma from the University of Delhi, and Maksat Haytmyradov from the University of Iowa.

Sixty people requested space for a poster, 40 of these were selected, and 38 showed up. The flat poster boards were very good, and should be used again. The poster printing was also successful; the fabric looked nice, and June 1<sup>st</sup> is a good deadline from a planning perspective. This year 18 people submitted their material early enough to have their poster printed for free. There was a discussion on the space available for posters; some felt that it would be better to have space enough for 100 posters, while others thought that would create difficulties with the logistics of judging the posters. The duration of the poster session was

also discussed; some felt it should be longer. The 3D virtual reality posters were a big success.

The APS booth was well received; a booth is requested for next year as well. The public lecture sold out three weeks in advance. The URA travel fund supported 12 students this year. It would be better to get the funds for the student travel grants appropriated earlier next year for planning purposes. People seemed to think that the Fermilab items such as T-shirts were free, rather than being for sale. It needs to be made clear with large signs that the items are not complimentary. The people manning the 'What FNAL can do for you' table are not needed; it would be sufficient to have just the pamphlets available. Those materials could also be made available at New Perspectives. There was no power outlet outside Director's office. In general, power is an issue in the Atrium that should be discussed for next year.

Last fall an anniversary committee was formed to plan the celebration of Fermilab's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Several activities for the celebration have been identified so far, including a big open house for the public in September, and the scientific symposium. A historical overview of the laboratory could be one presentation at the symposium. Several alternative schedules to fit the symposium into the same week as New Perspectives and the User's Meeting were discussed. It is desirable to get larger attendance during that week than there was this year, and suggestions for accomplishing this are welcome. Congressman Foster will be invited – perhaps more local representatives should be invited as well. Previous directors, spokespeople, heads of departments will all be invited

Sarah would like to attend any further meetings of the committee, as well as to be present for any discussions of the speakers for next year's User's Meeting.

### **Government Relations Sub-Committee**

Jesus Orduna reported for the Government Relations Sub-committee. One of the first tasks for next year is to sort out the new packet for the DC trip, but it should wait until the new UEC members have been

chosen so that they can contribute their input. Bill remarked that it would also be good to invite comments from the other user's committees involved with the trip. Rob asked if August visits to the local congressional offices are planned. The sub-committee will try to push for that.

### **Quality of Life Sub-Committee**

Minerba reported on the Quality of Life sub-committee activities. Achieving the new water station in the village was a multiyear effort involving the UEC, FSPA, and especially Jack Hawkins in the Housing Office. Thanks to everyone for that success. Recent feedback is that people are generally happy with the new food at the User's Center, with the exception of a general cry to get the free popcorn back.

The village housing working group has finalized a document that has been sent to Tim Meyer. There were some recommendations for the housing allocation procedure, and the conclusions and recommendations of the working group will be presented at the next UEC meeting. Email from people who are still looking for housing after the village housing allocation should be forwarded to Griselda so that she can inform them about the new option for offsite housing at Candlewood Suites. In general it is important to get the news about this option to everyone so that the test program is successful. Minerba reports that there have been polarized comments about the offsite housing option. Some people are excited about it since there are extra services such as transportation to the lab, and since it is cheaper than finding housing on their own. However, others are saying that it is still too expensive, and that their travel funds can't cover it. They would like subsidization from the lab. The rate for Candlewood Suites apartments will be \$1650 per month, and suites will be \$2070 per month.

The User's Center bartender and students should be consulted about the User's Center upgrades. There have been reports that people are unhappy with the location of the Ping Pong and pool tables, because there is not as much space.

## **Fermilab Student and Postdoc Association report**

Rob Fine reported for the FSPA. New Perspectives was a success. Jesus commented that FSPA has raised the bar for future New Perspectives, and that he heard lots of good feedback about the **meeting**. A big step forward was taken organizationally, and this should have a positive effect on attendance in further years with minimal further effort. The overlap in FSPA members across years will insure that there is continuity in the organization of New Perspectives next year. It was great to work with the Conference Office; it really helped New Perspectives have a professional look. There were some new ways of doing things this year; for example, senior Fermilab people were the session chairs. There was positive feedback about that. Handpicking the session chairs helped foster the desired supportive environment. There were a series of talks of the format 'About the experiment in 10 **minutes**'. Some of the experiments sent a speaker to give this type of overview of their program. There was only good feedback about these talks. They have the advantage of promoting communication and generating interest with the experimental groups.

The attendance as reported by Indico registration was just above 190 people. The FSPA prediction of attendance was accurate. The attendance numbers for each talk are also in hand; this will help planning by indicating what talks and times are popular. This year the peak attendance was Monday afternoon. The R&D talks were all on Tuesday afternoon, but attendance was not as high as predicted. Registration is important for planning, but attendees don't always register. It would be good to find a way to get people to 'self-register' their attendance at talks. It was suggested that the **UEC** consider making one registration for all events, New Perspectives, User's **Meeting**, poster sessions, etc. and have people check those events they will attend. However, Indico is not set up for this.

The coffee breaks were fine. There was lower attendance at the BBQ than expected; perhaps it was not promoted enough as a broad FSPA community event (as opposed to an event dedicated to New Perspectives). The event came in significantly under budget. FSPA cut a

few corners intentionally in order to come in under budget, so that the unused funds can support other activities during the summer.

Sebastian reported that FSPA is moving their web page, and are getting WordPress. The new webpage will be ready in several weeks, and will have the Fermilab design. The FSPA now knows their official designation is that they are a “committee”.

The meeting was adjourned.

Linda Spentzouris, UEC secretary