



Quality of Life Sub-Committee Report

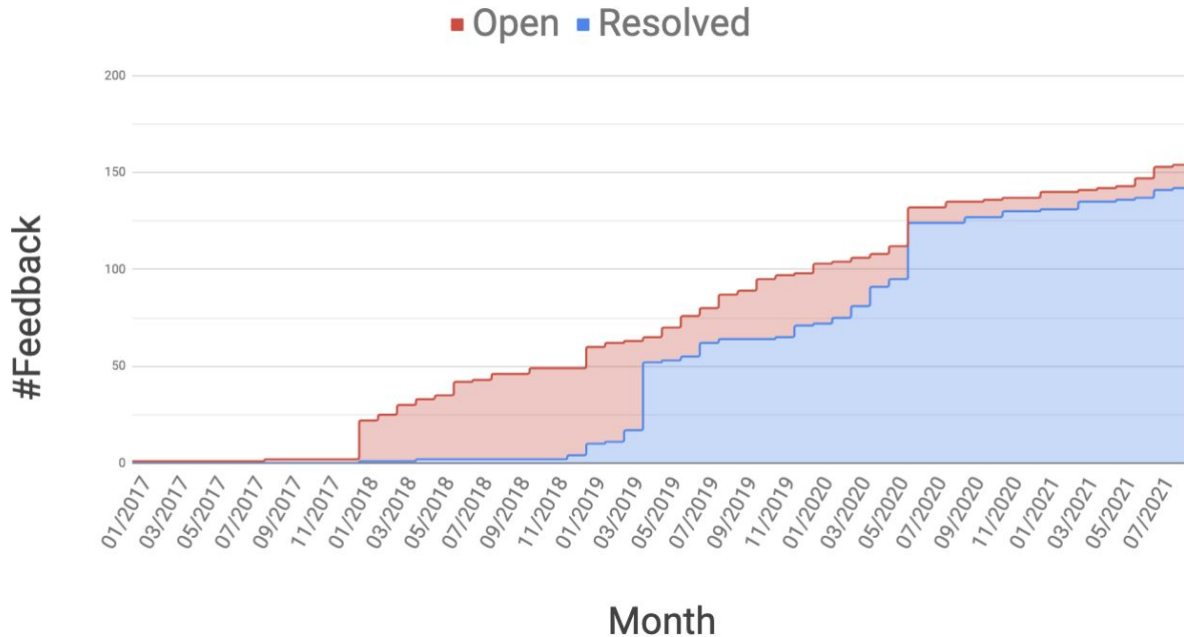
Aug 20, 2021

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Feedback Overview

UEC Feedback

One new feedback received during last month.
One feedback has been resolved.



(*) Includes items we don't publish

Open

(*) Excludes items we don't publish

Category	QoL & Fermilab Operations		
	QoL	Operations	Grand Total
Fermilab Operations		1	1
QoL	6		6
Grand Total	6	1	7

New feedback item -- Users Meeting recordings not found

- I'm looking for the recordings of Users meeting sessions and don't see them on indico site where the pdf files are available. Can you please point me to the site where the recordings are uploaded?

Open feedback items -- Rent increase in the village

- I am very surprised to see that recently the housing rent got hiked by 17%. As a student, I can only afford the dorm room here. I am living at the dorm room currently. It is very hard for us to rent a outside apartment. As a federal lab, it is very unfortunate and unfair to set the room rent as compared to market value. We are staying at the Fermilab housing because it is cheaper than the market and we as a student can afford it. Taking as a fact that market value raising, housing can increase their rent step-by-step with little amounts instead of whole lots of 17%.
- Hello I am writing to seek your involvement in hiking the housing rent matters. Since, most of the residents in village are phd or summer students so it would be really too much if the rent increases by 17%. We don't have many facilities inside the village-like there is no laundry in most of the dorms, there is no water machine, rooms need paint and renovation, no one cleans the carpet fully, and on top of that they are increasing rents. It's a government property and its not understandable why housing people involve private company to get the rate estimate. All the furniture in all dorms and houses are old, nothing new has happened so why there is an increase in rent? Please step into this matter and help us.
- Feedback: The FNAL housing office has increased the rent by 17% at once. This is not acceptable as they are not adding any extra facilities. 5% increase is understandable but 17% is too much. It would be great if UEC considers talking to the housing office and come up with a more reasonable rate.
- Hey, I am ***** , I am living at the Dorm *. I am very concern to know from housing office that my rent at dorm room will increase 30%. I am not getting any reasons or justifications for this announcement at this challenging time. Since housing are not implementing any new amenities (free washing/drying etc) for the dorm room, that's why it is very unfair to hike the rent a lot like 30%. Any small increments between 5-10% is manageable. The reason of market value agreement is very unfortunate, because federal lab don't want to make any profit from us. Please let us know your concern about this matter and how we proceed if we want to make any disagreement petition.
- Hello,I am very concern to know from housing office that my rent at dorm room (sharing kitchen and washroom) will increase ~32% from August however in the mail it was written 17%. I am not getting any reasons or justifications for this announcement at this challenging time. Since housing are not implementing the new amenities (free washing/drying etc) for the dorm room, that's why it is very unfair to hike the rent a lot like 32%. In 2019 it has increased 5% and again 32%. We understand the covid situation and any small increments between 5-10% is manageable. The reason of market value agreement is very unfortunate, because federal lab don't want to make any profit from us. Please let us know about your concern about this matter and how we proceed if we want to make any disagreement petition.

Open feedback items -- Rent increase in the village

Had a meeting with Kate Gregory. Learned many reasons for the rent increase.

- The rent increase is motivated by the need for maintenance in the village and also federal requirements. The lab is sympathetic about the impacts of the increase
- The village is not subsidized by a DOE funding, and operates on the collected rent. Although the village is not for profit, it still needs to “break even”. Currently, there are parts of the village has fallen behind on regular maintenance. The rent increase will be used for basic maintenance and furnishing.
- The lab had considered a rent increase spanning over a couple of years, rather than a large increase in one single year, but there is an urgent need to cover maintenance before the facilities deteriorate to an irreparable condition.
- In addition, Fermilab is, in principle, required to match “market rate” to avoid unfair competition with the local market. Therefore the rent can not be below “market rate”.

Anything we should further inquire before replying to and closing the feedbacks?

Open feedback items -- Rent increase in the village

Town-Hall meeting was held on Aug 11st.

- We thank the directorate office, users office and the housing office for setting up this event.
- We got feedback that people would have liked more detailed answers, going into greater depth in terms of the reasoning and maintenance planned.
- How do we improve for the future to avoid this kind of rent hike?
 - Jeanne: will be doing surveys on a more regular basis.
- Need to follow-up on the income-based subsidies/rents

Open feedback

- Country of birth question on the Fermilab meetings registration pages
- A meeting took place between the submitter, ESH&Q contact, Foreign visit officer, and Fermilab leadership.
 - Users Meeting restoration still asking for this information.
 - From Kate Gregory:
 - The wording we expect to begin using the following new wording in registrant questionnaires beginning in late July:
 - “Please identify if you were born in, are currently a citizen of, or are otherwise affiliated with a State Sponsor of Terrorism as identified by the U.S. Department of State (see <https://www.state.gov/state-sponsors-of-terrorism/>).”
 - The new wording will be implemented soon. Users meeting page might have been created a month ago or so therefore it uses the old wording.
 - Country of birth question is still being asked in the same way for a meeting happening later September.
 - <https://indico.fnal.gov/category/22/>
 - Plan to check with the Conference office.



Resolved feedback

- Housing rental agreement for users to get driver's licence.
 - Included in contract change, should be finalized/implemented (?) on August 1st
 - Housing rental agreement is now updated, and people should be able to use them for getting their drivers licence.
 - Closed the ticket and sent the reply to the original submitter
 - “The housing rental agreement has now been updated. Sorry about the long delay. Now people should be able to use them for getting their driver's licenses.”

Meeting Minutes

- The UEC quality of life has received one new feedbacks during the last month, resolved one feedback and are working on seven feedback items in total.
- The new feedback is regarding the unavailability of the recordings of Users meeting sessions.
- Five feedbacks are regarding the concerns related to the recent village housing rent increase. People have confusions and dissatisfactions regarding the situation. UEC had a meeting with Kate Gregory and learnt about the rent increase. The lab acknowledged that there were impacts on junior scientists from the increase. A town hall meeting with village residents also took place on August 11. UEC is exploring ways to improve the situation in the future.
- According to those conversations, UEC understood the following factors as the reasons for the increase, which is motivated by the maintenance need in the village and also federal requirements. (1) The village is not subsidized by a DOE funding, and operates on the collected rent. Although the village is not for profit, it still needs to “break even”. Currently, there are parts of the village that have fallen behind on maintenance. The rent increase will be used for basic maintenance and furnishing. (2) The lab had considered a rent increase spanning over a couple of years, rather than a large increase in one single year, but there is an urgent need to cover essential maintenance before the facilities deteriorate to an irreparable degree. (3) In addition, Fermilab is required to match “market rate” to avoid unfair competition with the local market. Therefore the rent can not be below “market rate”.
- The feedback regarding the country of birth question is still open. UEC plans to double check a meeting registration page with the modification before closing this ticket.
- The resolved feedback is related to the updated housing agreement for users to get drivers license. The contract has been modified and now people should be able to get drivers licenses based on the updated contract.