



Quality of Life Sub-Committee Report

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Yuanyuan Zhang (outgoing), Aleena Rafique

Quality of Life Subcommittee Objectives

- Page link: <https://uec.fnal.gov/quality-of-life-subcommittee/>

Purpose

Oversee the living and work environment for all of Fermilab's Users. In particular the subcommittee responds to issues related to services such as housing, dining, and work space, facilitates international Users visiting Fermilab, and works to provide a positive working environment.

- Maintain a good quality of life for all the users at Fermilab
- All users should feel inclusive and well respected
- In case of any concerns and/or questions, users can submit their feedback
 - <https://uec.fnal.gov/uec-feedback-form/>
 - Users have an option to provide feedback anonymously
- Please consider joining the QoL subcommittee

The Team

Subcommittee Members 2020-2021

Yuanyuan Zhang Chair (Fermilab)

Aleena Rafique Deputy chair (Argonne National Laboratory)

Ashley Back (Indiana University)

Reddy Pratap Gandrajula (Michigan State University)

Our partners

From Fermilab Student & Postdoc Association (FSPA)

Zubair Ahmad Dar (Aligarh Muslim University)

Global services

Griselda Lopez, Kimberly Pearce

Housing office

Steve Whiteaker

Jeanne Ecker

John Hatfield

Contact throughout the lab

Contacts to Fermilab's Organization

Global Services	Griselda Lopez, Kimberly Pearce
Wilson Hall Building Manager	John Kent
Roads & Grounds	Steve Whiteaker
Computing	Jon Bakken
Wellness Programs	Jeanne Ecker
Community Building	Jessica Jensen
Food Advisory Committee	John Hatfield
FESS	Mark Jeffers
Human Resources	Deanne Randich, Jose Guajardo

Contacts are very important to represent the user community in quality-of-life issues. QoL subcommittee identifies and contacts the relevant office and keeps track of the feedback item until its resolution.

The feedback form

- <https://uec.fnal.gov/uec-feedback-form/>

UEC Feedback Form

Please submit any suggestions or issues you would like to bring to the attention of the UEC. We also welcome hearing about any existing programs that you think are useful and effective. Suggestions submitted using this form are anonymous. If you wish to get a reply to your question, please enter your name and email address in the space provided.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Name (optional)

E-mail (optional)

Feedback

I'm not a robot



reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

Submit

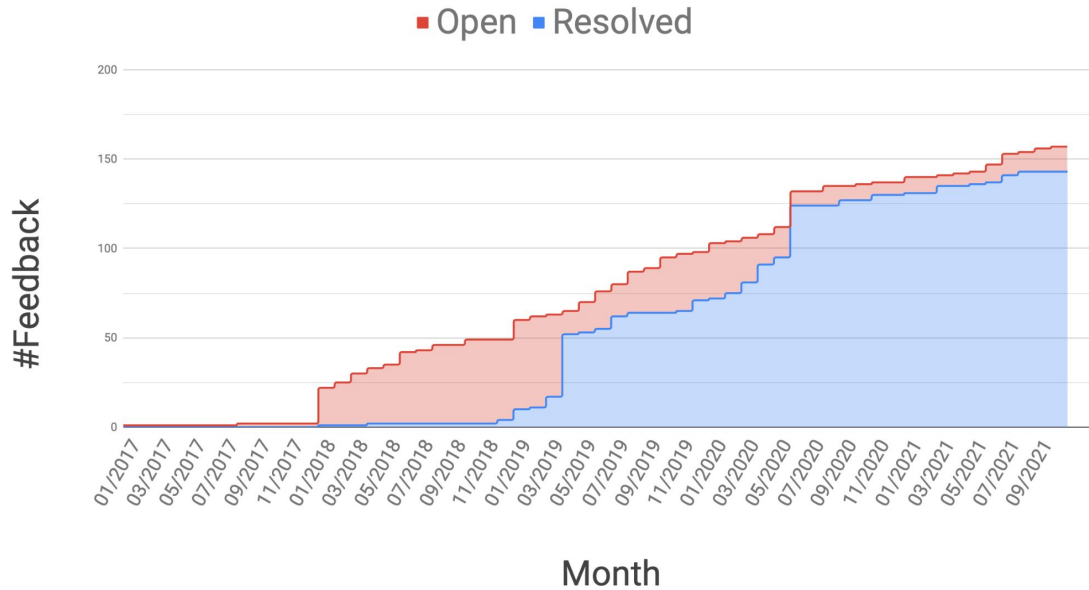
Clear All Fields

	Date received	Date resolved	Feedback	Resolution
143	6/15/21	7/12/21	Upon WH reopening, some problems are being seen by users onsite. Many lights are out through WH. Water fountains have problems of molds and dysfunctioning faucets.	FESS have been aware of the issues, and are actively working on fixing lighting and water line issues.

Feedback Overview

Two new feedbacks received during last month.
One feedback is resolved.

UEC Feedback



(*) Includes items we don't publish

Open

(*) Excludes items we don't publish

COUNT of Category	Responsible	
	QoL	Grand Total
	1	1
QoL	7	7
Grand Total	8	8

New feedback -- password reset email instruction

“The services password reset email should instruct offsite users that a VPN connection is needed.”

- Received email about password resets

Dear Yuanyuan Zhang,

Your password for the ynzhang account in the Fermilab SERVICES domain will expire on

Please change your SERVICES account password before this time by accessing the Password Reset Tool at

<https://passwordreset.fnal.gov/>

For more information on changing your SERVICES, FERMI, or -ADMIN account passwords, see the knowledge base article at

https://fermi.servicenowservices.com/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=KB0011055

If you need help, please contact the Fermilab Service Desk at 630-840-2345 or via the web at servicedesk.fnal.gov

Submitted a request to add information submitted to service desk

New feedback -- WH building air filtering status

Questions to ask WH building managers:

- What is the MERV rating on the filters in the WH HVAC system?
- Does WH use demand-controlled ventilation (i.e. the rate of ventilation slows as fewer people are in the building)?
- What is the air change rate for WH?
- Is the lab considering getting some portable air filters to help ventilate high occupancy spaces like conference rooms?

Plan to contact FESS office regarding this item.

Open feedback item

- Lack of gender inclusivity in on-boarding in FermiWorks

I happen to be **renewing my FNAL computing** at the moment. In the **on-boarding in FermiWorks**, I was looking at the drop-down options for the Gender question and I was **pretty disappointed in the lack of inclusivity** for people who exist outside of the gender binary of the "Male" and "Female" options. **The only other option appears to be "Unknown"**. Whilst this is better than having only the binary gender options, using language such as "Unknown", "Prefer not to say" or "Other" further marginalizes nonbinary people and people whose gender identity is something other than these options, who in most cases clearly know and are proud of their gender identity.

While this does not affect me directly, I know of friends and colleagues within the Fermilab community who would be affected by the lack of inclusive options in the question.

There was an article shared recently on NOvA slack, mainly talking about similar data collected by NSF and other funding agencies:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.scientificamerican.com_article_nonbinary-2Dscientists-2Dwant-2Dfunding-2Dagencies-2Dto-2Dchange-2Dhow-2Dthey-2Dcollect-2Dgender-2Ddata_&d=DwIB-g&c=gRgGj3Bklsb5y6s49QqsA&r=EGR3H9tJ0V1BO_24YJQQjPndKdaZkhuOLKGETLYqfil&m=8mzOwkYSe8AeYI2_uB3JCTPAmFQszwttFQyu_IVbpol&s=Bp1_KpCLShyaoRASiOdSGSGXd02Q-OXTeFvtxUq8SQ4&e= . This provided some advice on how to make Gender questions more inclusive. We may also wish to consult the SPECTRUM LRG to see if they have specific advice or input on how we can make this question more inclusive.

This is related to the DOE database which is rather old. Plan to contact Melissa Ormond to obtain further instructions on how to reach out to DOE regarding this issue.

Also plan to submit this item to employee concerns

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

Town-Hall meeting was held on Aug 11th.

- We thank the directorate office, users office and the housing office for setting up this event.
- Need to follow-up on the income-based subsidies/rents before closing the tickets.
 - Griselda is following up with Anju from HR and will get back to us.
 - A meeting is going to take place soon where this item will be discussed and will be reported then.

Resolved feedback

- Country of birth question on the Fermilab meetings registration pages
- 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 is now implemented
 - **Resolution:**

Thank you for raising concerns on this important issue. Fermilab has reworded questions which now only asks people to identify if they 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/>) as required.



Meeting Minutes

- The UEC quality of life received two new feedbacks during the last month, resolved one feedback and are working on eight feedback items in total.
- The new feedback is related to the absence of the VPN requirement specification in the password reset email. We have submitted a ticket to service desk on this topic.
- The other new feedback are the questions regarding the WH building air filtering status. We plan to reach out to FESS office.
- Another open feedback is the lack of gender options for the on-boarding form in FermiWorks. We now know that this is coming from the DOE database that is from 70s. We plan to submit this item to employee concerns and we also plan to contact Melissa Ormond and ask to reach out to DOE regarding this.
- The five feedbacks regarding the concerns related to the recent village housing rent increase are still open. UEC is still exploring ways to improve the situation in the future. We will hear an update on this soon.
- The resolved feedback is regarding the country of birth question. QoL confirms that the new wording of the question is now implemented in the Fermilab meeting registration pages.