



## Fermilab Users Executive Committee meeting minutes, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Attendees (hybrid format):

- **UEC:** Biswaranjan Behera, Richard Cavanugh, Sridhara Dasu (Chair), Adam Lyon, Sophie Middleton, Alexx Perloff, Nadja Strobbe
- **FSPA:** Olivia Meredith Bitter, Marvin Ascencio
- **Directorate:** Greg Bock, SoLita Greene, Griselda Lopez, Lia Meringa (Director)
- **Users' Office:** Kimberly Pearce
- **EDI Office:** Anahi Ruiz Beltran
- **Lewis & Burke Associates:** Hale Stolberg

Indico page: <https://indico.fnal.gov/event/55890/>

The meeting began at 9:00 am (CDT).

### Report from the Directorate – Lia Meringa & Greg Bock

- There was a discussion about the upcoming UEC elections. We will be voting in 7 members as opposed to the usual 6. Nomination forms have already been sent out.
- It was announced that Bonnie Flemming will be the Deputy Director for Science & Technology and the Chief Research Officer. She will also be joining the University of Chicago faculty.
- There was a brief discussion of incoming funding from the Inflation Reduction Act. The act appropriates \$303M for HEP, with enough funding to do the already planned HL-LHC, CMS, and Mu2e work as well as to accelerate several projects. g-2 will have a 6<sup>th</sup> run in an opportunistic mode with Mu2e given the highest priority.
- The remainder of the meeting with the directorate was dedicated to two pressing QoL feedbacks. The feedbacks were presented by Rick Cavanaugh.

- The first was regarding site access. This was a long conversation regarding multiple site access issues and complaints. The feedback was welcomed by the directorate and they encourage the UEC to continue sending the feedback to them.
- The second topic was regarding WhatsApp/Signal being blocked on the Fermilab network. There was a long conversation about what is possible in terms of remedies. However, the takeaway is that we are limited in how much we can push back. That said, the point about a lack of lab communication is well taken and that is something the lab can do better on immediately.

## Report from Washington – Hale Stolberg (Lewis & Burke Associates)

- FY22 Congressional Appropriations:
  - Both the House and the Senate have released their appropriations numbers. Furthermore, the House Energy & Water appropriations bill (DOE) has passed, but the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies bill (NSF) has only passed through a committee vote, not a full vote. The Senate has not formally passed either bill.
  - HEP (DOE) has been proposed to be funded at \$1.16B in the House and \$1.17B in the Senate, with \$10M specifically earmarked for research. Overall, the numbers are lower than what we requested, but this is likely due to the Inflation Reduction Act, which provides additional funding for construction projects. Only the Senate bill mentions the LHC, saying “Not less than \$85M.” The hope is that this language will stay in the omnibus package. The timing of the Omnibus package depends on the midterms. Depending upon the outcome, we may see final votes either in December or in the spring. Either way, there will need to be a CR, which means no new project starts (CD-0).
  - For NSF, the House has proposed funding the agency at \$9.6B and the Senate \$10.3B. There is some ongoing work between the UEC, laboratory leadership, SLAC, APS and other interest groups to make sure our priorities are taken into account.
- Reconciliation came together and was passed:
  - The Inflation Reduction Act has specified \$304M for HEP projects, with the largest portion going to FNAL, and \$133 for science & laboratory infrastructure, shared between the labs. Congress did not specify the funding breakdown of projects on which this money can be spent.
- House and Senate came together on Chips & Science Act:
  - The Innovation Package, formerly COMPETES/USICA and now called CHIPS+Science, has been passed. This is the first major authorization in 20 years where congress did their own budget analysis in addition to what the agencies do yearly, and which goes beyond the +2% inflationary increase. It is now a useful tool when advocating for science funding. The CHIPS part of the bill is an actual appropriation (\$54B), but little of it is HEP related.

## Report from QoL – Richard Cavanaugh

- 13 new issues have been received in the last month, though none have been resolved as of this meeting. The new feedbacks are discussed below.
  - Five of the nine issues collected in August were about WhatsApp being blocked from the Fermilab computing networks. The plan is to follow up with John Bakken (Division Head of Core Computing), in addition to the discussion with SoLita and Lia during today's meeting. The QoL subcommittee also plans to talk to Matt Kwiatkowski (Chief Information Security Officer)
  - There was a complaint about construction material stored near village house near Dorm4 which is creating lots of dust and health issues. Multiple people have already been contacted. The lab is contractually obligated to provide a space for the contractor doing work in the area to store materials. If these materials need to be moved, the lab will incur an additional cost. However, not all the materials are a problem, mostly the pile of dirt in the area. The prevailing though in the meeting is that the lab should consider moving or tarping the dirt. We are awaiting a response about this idea.
  - There were two issues related to the shuttle service requesting that it run later in the day. This request has been passed onto FESS.
  - There was one request for guidance on the COVID-19 testing protocol. This request was passed onto Amber Kenny in ES&H and we are waiting a response.
  - There was a request for information regarding how the security drone would impact the wildlife in Fermilab Natural Areas. This was discussed at some length during the meeting. According to SoLita, the Fermilab drone program has been certified by the DOE and is following FAA requirements. The directorate is assuming that the DOE took noise and migratory patterns into account and that there will be no impact to the wildlife. This is still an open area of discussion.
  - A request was made for the East gate closure time to be extended from 10 PM to 11 PM. This is still being considered and we are hoping for more news in October.
  - <further lab access issues already discussed>

## Report from EPE – Alexx Perloff

- We discussed the ongoing desire from the FNAL EDI office to bring increased awareness to heritage and recognition events. Most urgently, the UEC and the FSPA are planning an event to celebrate postdoc appreciation week.
- Mentor or lecturer volunteers for the ACT-SO program were solicited via an announcement to the FNAL community. Scientists, engineers, staff, postdocs, graduate students, and others are all welcome to volunteer.

## Report from UM – Biswaranjan Behera

- The UM subcommittee updated us on some last-minute users meeting items. All the remaining video recordings have been uploaded to the Indico agenda and all travel awardees have received their reimbursements. There is some ongoing work regarding the poster award certificate and in sending the prizes to the winners.

## Report from FSPA – Olivia Bitter

- There was a brief discussion of the ongoing Early Career Seminar Series followed by an update on the call for FSPA nominations.

## Report from GovRel – Nadja Strobbe

- There was a discussion recapping the outcome of the 2022 Washington DC advocacy trip. This included a summary of the post-trip participant survey responses. More details about the survey are available in the slides on the Indico agenda.