

To: Fermilab SAC

From: Chris Stoughton, Chair, Fermilab Colloquium Committee

Date: January 25, 2024

Subject: Status of Colloquium

I would like to know your opinion on the importance of the Fermilab Colloquium.

On January 23rd, I received this message from Rae Moss:

We are currently reviewing budgets very closely across the lab. I'd like to ask that you refrain from scheduling any additional colloquium until we've finalized this review. Those that are already scheduled for January and February are fine, but it will be best if we can have the time to closely review our budgets prior to scheduling additional events.

I asked the colloquium committee to not extend invitations for more speakers. Rae advised that for invitations that are pending:

If there is an invitation out, leave it, but do not schedule the speaker. If someone responds they can speak, as them if we can schedule them for later in the year (without committing to a specific time).

On January 17th, Rae sent me this update on the budget:

as of the end of the first quarter of FY24, we have spent approximately \$3,500 of our \$20,000 budget for the year.

with the public attending the colloquium, we will not be able to serve wine and cheese as we did when only employees/users attended.

I have the following questions for the SAC:

1. What is the relative importance of the colloquium series? Please provide guidance to the budget process.
2. What is the importance of having a (non-alcoholic) reception after a colloquium? Lia's innovation of having a wine and cheese reception after each (non-FNAL speaker) was very well received! Conversations with the speaker and other attendees in the atrium contribute to the intellectual benefits of the series. This helps the speaker learn more about the people at Fermilab.
3. Can you comment on how this decision was passed on from senior management? For example, having a discussion with me, rather than a pronouncement, would foster collaboration and inclusiveness. The lab's recent climate survey, and discussions hosted by the SAC, indicate that this is a significant symptom.