

10/31

SAC

Minutes submitted by Jonathan Lewis

Present: David vZ, Vaia, Stephen, Stoyan, Adam, Jonathan L. (secretary)

Directorate: Bonnie, Eileen

Remote: Liz, Artur, Dan, Greg Bock, Kellen, Robyn, Si

Announcement: All scientist's meeting on 11/22 (Fri.)

Discussion of mailing lists. There is a sac@fnal.gov list. It is open only to SAC members. It also includes Lia, Bonnie, Eileen Crowley. Discussed having a second list for people to contact list that is open to the public to send. In the past, people have reached out to individual members. In the end we decided to create a "sac_chairs" list where anybody could send an e-mail to and are working to set this up.

Discussion of what people want to work on.

Discussion of procurement since that is one of the issues that has been worked on. We started discussion of pain points when Bonnie arrived with news on the subject.

Bonnie: As of Monday, agreed to new process for subcontracts to universities. Removed some steps. Eliminates sole-source justification and competitive bid from this process. Provides guidance on preparing justification. Guidance on information required for payments for invoices.

Vaia: It took one year from when Procurement submitted streamlined process to FSO to get to approval.

BF: Alan Stone helped with the process.

DV: How did this have to be negotiated?

BF: It was with site office. Issues were primarily with cost accountability.

VP: Lab used a consultant to find out how other labs had solved this problem.

JDL: Will new invoice process apply to existing subcontracts?

BF: I will check.

AS: Will this apply the CERN and JPARC. Lots of problems with purchases from CERN.

BF: Will find out.

VF: Can SAC help with reviewing web pages, developing metrics?

BF: Perhaps it is the right time for help. Check with Greg Stephens. Lots of other issues. Lab's financial systems are antiquated.

DV: Has there been a survey about where pain points are? Would allow working on issues.

JDL: Perhaps work jointly with EAC.

AS: Oracle system not very good, e.g. can have inappropriate approval chains.

BF: Work with Procurement to develop any survey. FermiForward has industrial partners. They should bring past success in finance systems.

DZ: Can we talk to them?

BF: Ask at Monday all-hands.

JDL: Can we get big reduction in work load by increasing procard threshold? It has not changed in 30 years.

Volunteers to work on Procurement: David, Jonathan L.

Sabbatical Policy: Stephen and Eileen working on it. Need help.

BF: It is stuck in HR. Let's bring it to the transition team to identify as something to be addressed shortly after January if it can't be addressed before. (Blue sheet.) Perhaps SAC can speak directly to transition team.

EC: Idea has been in the works for >10 years. Proposal is that employee could take a leave of absence from the lab to do something related to their job, teach or research elsewhere.

SP: Leave is one foot out the door. Need something where you can go somewhere and maintain FNAL affiliation, insurance, etc.

VP: Lab has to pay 51% of salary to get benefits. How will that work?

EC: Not sure. Need to work out with HR. Then site office will have to weigh in.

SP: Other labs have a policy like we'd like to have here.

EC: Livermore has a very good policy that we'd like to emulate. Some similar labs can't compare, e.g. SLAC and LBL where they can use university policy. Also, since there is money involved, FSO will need to weigh in.

Liz: Perhaps we can leverage the UChicago connection.

DZ: Similar issue to Joint Appointments. If lab doesn't pay 51%, not considered an employee.

BF: Maybe we can solve one of these issues (JA and sabbatical) and help with the other.

Stephen will setup a SAC Chairs mailing list for people to contact the committee.

Liz volunteers to help with SAC web page and scientist profiles.

Next meeting 11/14. Daniel will make a presentation.

Stoyan would like to present issues of concern at next meeting and suggests others can do the same.

We will also check if Greg Stephens can make the next meeting.