

Scientists Advisory Council

Pier Oddone, May 15, 2013

Discussion and Purpose

During the last several years we have used several ad-hoc groups of scientists in the various planning exercises that the laboratory has undertaken. Some of these have been the Steering Group that prepared a Fermilab plan as input to the first P5 process in 2007, the group that wrote "A Plan for Discovery" in 2011, the groups involved in the reconfiguration effort for LBNE in 2012, the group that has been preparing for the Snowmass 2013 activities, innumerable groups involved in preparing reviews and proposals in the various areas of the laboratory and standing committees such as FCSA. We have also implemented "all scientists meetings" on a quarterly basis. Despite all these interactions we are often confronted with statements that communications between the scientific staff and senior management is not adequate. In order to try to remedy this situation we want to establish a standing group of scientists that would allow us to discuss issues relevant to the scientific staff, from strategic issues to policy issues, to communications with both the internal and external scientific community. A standing committee with rotating membership broadly representative of the scientific staff would add one more avenue for communication, discussion and planning. In various forms, such group has existed in the laboratory in times past, but not recently.

In order to allow for in depth discussions the group should not be too large, but large enough to serve as a broad link between senior management and the scientific staff. Its charge would be to create a forum for discussions on scientific planning, internal and external communications, and any other issues relevant to the scientific life of the laboratory.

Composition

The SAC will have sixteen members with representation from accelerator, experiments, computing and theory, and various levels of the scientific staff will be appointed by the Director following nomination by members of the scientific staff, including self-nominations. The Council will elect a chairperson and will typically meet with the Director and members of the senior management team on a monthly basis. Member terms will be two years with half the committee rotating on alternate years.

Meetings

Meetings of the SAC will be approximately every month, scheduled on a regular time and day of the month, with agendas prepared by the chair of the SAC in consultation with the Deputy Director of the laboratory and circulated ahead of time. The "all scientists" meetings will be continued on a quarterly basis with additional meetings if circumstances warrant it.