FERMILAB Users Organization Executive Committee
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Minutes of the Dec 9th 2000 Meeting of the Fermilab Users Executive Committee

Attendees:
Robin Erbacher(robine@fnal.gov),
Peter Garbincius(garbincius@fnal.gov),
Sally Koutsoliotas(koutslts@bucknell.edu),
Dan Amidei (dan@fnal.gov)
Larry Nodulman(ljn@fnal.gov),
Vaia Papadimitriou(vaia@fnal.gov) (video to noon),
Rick St. Denis(stdenis@fnal.gov),
Gordon Watts(gwatts@fnal.gov),
Herman White(hwhite@fnal.gov),
Philip Yager(yager@fnal.gov).
Benn Tannenbaum(benn@physics.ucla.edu)

Absent:
Jim Musser(musser@bigbang.astro.indiana.edu)
Roger Rusack(rusack@mnhep.hep.umn.edu)

GSA Attendees (1999-2000 GSA):
Nancy Lai, Chris Hays, Daniel Whitson

Larry Nodulman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
The main topics of the meeting were a discussion with Mike Witherell, Dee Hahn's presentation on behalf of the Facilities Committee, final insurance recommendation, HEPAP nominations, and committee reports. Larry said that Bruce Chrisman postponed his invitation until Jan 20. He talked to Bruce about the insurance recommendation, housing and visas. For housing it is not impossible to earmark some housing for foreign visitors. Renting a block of apartments runs afoul of DOE rules when it comes to paying for unoccupied spaces.

Chris Hays will join washington and users meeting committees.
Daniel Whitson will join washington and younger physicists committees

1. Discussion with Mike Witherell

- Mike updated us on news from Washington, showing a letter written by 36 senators to President Clinton encouraging that the level of funding of the DOE Office of Science be brought on a par with that of NSF and NIH. The letter also pointed out that the DOE leads in support of the physical sciences.

- It is a good time to write the OMB as the president's budget needs to be submitted soon.

- Issues for foreign visitors were discussed. These center on housing, security and a guest office.
  - Housing: Mike is getting signals on housing from

a number of directions and asked that we collect this into a single view. In their capacity as members of the Quality of Life committee, Benn Tannenbaum and Gordon Watts have volunteered to work with Bruce Chrisman to touch bases with people and understand concerns.
- Visas: we will have a further discussion after Benn Tannenbaum collects some information and provides a written summary.
- Security: On Dec 18, there will be a high level study of science and security with consideration of incompatibility problems.

o Robin Erbacher asked what to do with getting email lists made and if it was possible to get email addresses at registration. Mike thought this was reasonable and Robin should consult with Bruce on matters of policy. Robin was concerned that the Fermilab employees get missed out on the user's list.

o Dan Amidei asked about the timing of Snowmass and Mike pointed out that if we want something built in the latter half of the decade then we have to get going now.

o Dan also asked about the impact of LHC on the US running and Mike pointed out that money will go to experimental operations but not to the operation of CERN.

2. Users Facilities Advisory Committee

Dee Hahn reported on the status of the User's Facilities Advisory Committee activities.
Her transparencies are available on the UEC web page.

Additional information and discussion:
o There is a new person running housing, Jack Hawkins.

o A number of repairs are being done in the houses and satellite TV is coming to the village. There was a question about what happens if someone does not want it and what happens if later someone does want it. Dee will follow up on this question.

o The pool is quite old and would cost a lot to replace. URA would have to sponsor this.

o Dee asked us to nominate members for the committee: We nominated Dhiman Chakraborty and Dee.

o Responding to a question about the car club, Dee pointed out that it was disbanded for liability reasons. The garden and airplane club are not part of the User's Facilities Advisory Committee calling but are alive and well.

o Dee pointed out that the UEC has sponsored a physics prize for the Illinois state science fair and this will be needed again.

3. Insurance

As Larry said he talked to Bruce Chrisman about it and there were no objections. The Quality of Life will pursue the question of group insurance. The recommendation was unanimously accepted.

Here is the text that was approved:

The UEC, in consultation with the GSA, and having solicited comment from

users, recommends the following policy change to Fermilab:

The long standing policy of requiring that users sign off on having health insurance when obtaining or renewing Fermilab badge/ID should be reinforced in particular for graduate students by making badge/ID renewal annual and requiring the graduate student user to present evidence of minimally reasonable insurance that provides for local coverage while stationed at Fermilab. This evidence could take the form of an insurance ID referring to a documented policy or of a letter from the student's advisor, as Fermilab may determine for convenience of enforcement.

4. HEPAP Nominations

HEPAP nominations were discussed and made.

5. Committee Reports

Outreach

Quality of life/users issues

As mentioned, Gordon and Benn will work with Bruce Chrisman on housing issues.

Users office will get a web page.

Peter reported that there soon will be information for visitors on the web:

- Public Affairs -> visitor info on web
- prepared by the wife of a foreign visitor
- help foreign newcomers moving to the US
- visa, social security number, health insurance,
- housing, motels , apartments, schools,
- money, banking, cost examples,
- driver's license, buying a car, registration,
- auto insurance, taxes (return), language, etc.

Washington

- Trying to get a list of people on committees
- Will coordinate with SLAC Users Committee
- Get organized in January

Users Meeting

- Discussion of when to hold it and what format to use.

Younger Physicists issues (Inreach)

- Will meet in the next couple of weeks.

6. Next Meetings

The next UEC Meeting is on, January 20, 2001 with Bruce Chrisman invited. The next after that is February 10, 2001.

Submitted by,

Rick St. Denis-- UEC Secretary