

Minutes of the US LHC Users Executive Committee Meeting, 6 January 2023

Attendees: Maria Baldini, Steven Goldfarb, Julia Gonski, Joe Haley, Philip Ilten, Kiley Kennedy, Jane Nachtman, Harvey Newman, Sally Seidel, Daniel Takaki, Caterina Vernieri, Gordon Watts

The meeting was conducted by Zoom. It started at 12:03pm MST. Slides shown at the meeting by Harvey Newman are available at

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/bnhm97ojo4qilds/USLUECMeeting\\_hbn012023.pptx?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/bnhm97ojo4qilds/USLUECMeeting_hbn012023.pptx?dl=0) .

Slides shown by Kiley Kennedy are available at

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1sp\\_sel9c5t7WiIvx\\_Q0sg-OgNYiNRKXSIguONydRp\\_I/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1sp_sel9c5t7WiIvx_Q0sg-OgNYiNRKXSIguONydRp_I/edit?usp=sharing) .

The meeting began with a few remarks by Harvey in memory of Meenakshi Narain, followed by a moment of silence.

Although virtual communication with Congress has been effective, we are aware that Covid has impacted the ability of the community to carry out professional activities, and we seek to improve that situation. We need to establish more presence at CERN to assist, especially, the community of young scientists who reside there as part of their training.

It is now approaching 16 years since the establishment of the US-LUEC (which remained informal until 2013). Our community had a fruitful summer and fall marked by the Higgs at 10 Conference, the start of LHC Run 3, and the conclusion of the Snowmass process. Additionally the EPP2024 National Academy Panel is getting underway.

In developing the right message to communicate to Congress, we note that the Inflation Reduction Act supports efforts to return the LHC projects to their timeline. However the US community is affected by challenges due to the collaborations' loss of support from the Russian funding agencies and other resources shortfall. These affect both operations and upgrade. A further challenge is the spiking cost of energy at CERN.

The trip to Washington will take place during the week of March 20. The outlook on science priorities in Congress for 2024 is unclear at this time, making the trip especially important, as conversations with representatives and officers in the agencies will provide perspective. There is no funding source for the trip that is analogous to FRA (which supports FNAL UEC members' travel) so members of the USLUEC must provide their own support not originating from federal grants. The request for federal support for the field is approximately \$1.3b which is what the field needs.

Some USLUEC members have already met once with Adam Lyon of the FNAL UEC who is leading the overall trip. Kiley Kennedy is participating in the development of the advocacy packet. The previous years' packet was quite extensive but designed to be reusable with modifications. The team plans to reduce the size of the packet for this year, with references to the online version. This will be the first visit to the OS-HEP under its new Associate Director Regina Rameika, and the committee looks forward to discussions with her.

Kiley led the discussion about the Content Group's development of the DC trip materials. Michael Cooke organizes the USparticlephysics.org Content Group, which meets weekly. The top 3 priorities to be communicated are: strengthen support for HEP research, advance the HL-LHC, and continue to support LBNF/DUNE/PIP-II. The packet includes a section on recent results from HEP including the LHC experiments. Harvey points out that some congressional staffers are very interested and respond positively to scientific information that is provided. The packet details program advances (upgrades) and expectations looking forward. Philip suggested that perhaps the packet could add information about direct HEP contributions to Covid treatment/management (e.g. respirator) technologies. Harvey pointed out that the literature should be careful to refer to the LHC program (not just the LHC) to include the accelerator and the experiments. There was some discussion about whether connections with Nuclear Physics should be mentioned and at what level. High level synergies are worth pointing out.

New additions to the packet include an improved usparticlephys.org website (with hyperlinks, QR code); an introductory 1-pager highlighting strengths of the program; a map and district list. There was some discussion of the goal to include not only direct but also indirect federally funded institutions (for example contractors funded through national labs) per district on the map. The map needs to be amended due to redistricting. A tool is available that rates each representative's influence upon appropriations according to the committee roles that person has.

Additional brochures included in the packet cover: the LHC, dark matter, and education aimed at building STEM leaders (QuarkNet). The committee agrees that it would be nice to add information on funding for high school or undergraduate research at the LHC. Steve pointed out that examples of this include the Quarknet international masterclasses. There was discussion of mapping the high schools that participate in this, as well as the institutional origins of students who have attended the LHC REU. New brochures are proposed on the Snowmass process, veterans' opportunities, QIS, AI/ML, DEI, LHC projects, and LHC experiment construction. The first 3 are national initiatives for which information is already available, to be updated.

Harvey noted that it is time to re-form our committees and seek chairs for all of them, and update related information on the committee webpage. Jane would welcome help with managing the web page. Activities by the Quality of Life committee are the most important. The committee should take a fresh look at the New Student Orientation guide to see what needs updating. The USLUEC needs to run the election for new members for the 2023-4 term. The election committee will include Philip and Sally with Steve available as an experienced resource.

It is suggested that the US-LUEC should start communicating with Fermilab Director Lia Merminga more frequently: we should coordinate with her so that we speak with a unified voice about priorities for our field.

First thoughts on a summer event were offered. CERN is preferred for the annual meeting location because community members will be there for the ongoing run. The USLUEC will form a subcommittee of people who will be at CERN to contribute to this. There was also discussion of the feasibility of holding a joint USATLAS/USCMS/USLHCb event and of a fall annual USLUA meeting in the US.

The meeting ended at 1:11pm MST.