

UEC Meeting: September 13, 2019

In Attendance: Ajeeta, Amilkar, Frank, Kelly, Yacine, Oleg, Jaki, Justin, Matt, Megan, Shinlchi, Xuan, Zhenyu, Ron, Rosi, Teri, Kathy, Matt, Anthony, Sevil and Mark Davis.

We are organized in the following working groups: Meetings, Communications and Outreach (MCO), Quality of Life (QOL), Funding, Politics and Programmatic (FPP), Site Access and Science (SAS), Diversity. Thank you to all UEC members who signed up to the selected working groups. The UEC members who didn't have a chance, are encouraged to sign-up with Kelly after reviewing the goals of these working groups.

QOL: Our special guest was Mark Davis. Mark is the manager of Facilities & Operation's integrated Facility Management overseeing RHIC, NSL2 and others. He joined to this particular meeting as he is also serving as an interim manager of the F&O Guest Service Division that manages transportation, housing, and food services. The recent changes in food services are reviewed. Mark ensured us that the vendor would also want to keep the users group satisfied and was acting on requests for changes and the food vendor has already reacted to the various comments about the use of disposable plates and other waste.

Food: New start time of breakfast is 6:30 am to accommodate shift takers and other early risers. This is expected to be advertised soon.

BNL is open to the idea of introducing back dinners and social hub. As users we need to make the case and provide information to show that this will be sustainable from business perspective. The location can be Brookhaven Center, Berkner Hall or Building 400. In fact, pop-up events on Fridays in building 400 is currently being explored for a possible social opportunity. The possibility of exploration this further during major meetings is also discussed.

The expansion of the food services for dinners could be further investigated with the current vendor through partnership with other vendors and trucks. But an updated survey is requested to ensure that needs of our current active users are addressed.

Housing: The prospects of Discovery Park is also discussed. Implementation of low cost rooms, kitchen facilities in some rooms, block of rooms that are only open to users are investigated with the developers. Seasonal changes in demands of BNL housing will be provided to developer to ensure the right numbers and kinds of rooms are going to be blocked. Most of the current apartments and the dorm rooms will be kept until a smooth transition to Discovery Park will be finalized. Although, apparently specific requests that are only unique to BNL cannot be made to prospective contractors to avoid losing them to another location in long island*, the goal is to address our needs in the most effective way but with the priority of business based decisions.

Day care is expected to be provided in Discovery Park. Interim arrangements were made with private day cares in the vicinity of BNL as described in the web

page: <https://www.bnl.gov/HR/Benefits/childcare.php> The difficulty of identifying child care for short term visitors is mentioned. A possible solution for short term visitors by partnering with daycares via

contracting teachers is proposed. This will be investigated further. Bob Lincoln and Denise DiMeglio will be invited to our next monthly UEC meeting to discuss the daycare issue.

Transportation: Bicycle services are provided by the departments but expansion of the current service is being investigated. In the similar manner, possible car services such as zip-cars are introduced. Mark will look into the possibilities further.

MCO: Minutes of our monthly UEC meetings will be posted in the AUM agenda after circulating them in the UEC list for clarity and accuracy. The next UEC meeting will be in November due to Open Form during DNP in October. Minute takers will be identified before the upcoming meetings to share the work. Anonymous input box as introduced during our August 2019 meeting is implemented in <http://www.rhicuec.org>. This will be advertised in users list to seek users input.

Open Forum at the DNP will be held on Tuesday Oct 15th. DNP Conference Coordinator Gail is contacted for the room reservation and allocated time. The speakers are requested through collaborations speaker bureau for Sphenix, Phenix, Star experiments. An invitation is made to a speaker to discuss EIC. These speakers will be finalized in the coming days. The funding for the refreshments is secured and similar to previous years refreshments during open forum will be provided.

AUM will be held on June 9 to 12th. The theme of this years meeting is 20 years of RHIC. Berkner Hall and other rooms are reserved. JLAB and EIC users chairs will be contacted to avoid conflicts. In addition, the NSF and DOE program officers will be informed about dates of AUM.

Thesis Awards committee will be chaired by outgoing chair as usual. Volunteers are called from UEC members to serve in Thesis and Merit Awards committees. DNP/APS award and program nomination committee members are identified. This committee will identify members from RHIC/AGS Users to be nominated to be in the ballot for DNP committee elections and also possibly engage users informally to nominate the suggested users for awards. DNP executive, program and dissertation committees are expected to have openings. The lack of advertised diversity committee within DNP is raised despite the successful Allies program <https://www.aps.org/units/dnp/allies/>. This will be investigated further by UEC by possibly giving feedback to DNP Executive Committee member(s).

FPP: A listserv is setup http://www.listservers.net/mailman/listinfo/rhic-complex-users_listservers.net to collect non-governmental email addresses for interested users to inform them further for future Nuclear Physics DC days. This link will be advertised within users listserv soon.

SAS: Exceptions for guests can be provided for citizens of blacklisted countries during open meetings. The question of seeking exceptions for collaboration meetings is raised. Kathy is willing to pass this question to higher up in the chain as long as experiments can provide a justification. UEC will contact experiments for this letter. While requesting exemptions during RHIC operations previously failed, the request will be made again to ensure smooth operations of experiments. BNL recently signed a contract with docuSign.

This software is expected to help GUV Center for establishing User Agreements. Kathy will also ask ITD if this software can be used to secure the privacy of the users when submitting required documents.