

Minutes of the RHIC/AGS Users' Group Executive Committee Meeting 14 February 2003

Present: J. Hill, D. Hofman, B. Johnson, S. Kettell, R. Seto, S. White-DePace, P. Yamin (Secretary)

Telephone: J. Burwood-Hoy, V. Greene

Absent: J. Engelage, M. Lisa, M. Murray, S. Pate, M. Vazquez

Guests: P. Bond, C. Carter (NSLS), C. Sanchez Hanke (NSLS), T. Kirk, E. Kudunko (NSLS),
D. Lowenstein, T. Ludlam, J. Mitchell, A. Purwar, C. Ronick, A. Rusydi (NSLS)

The meeting was held in the soon-to-be-opened Student/Users Center, located in the reception area of the former HFBR building. Representatives of the NSLS Users' Group joined us. The Center comprises a lounge, kitchen area, and game room. It does not include a bar. Access will be controlled by ID card. The barbed wire surrounding the parking lot will remain, but there will be an open gate in the fence. Lunch was served in the lounge. The UEC was deeply appreciative of the hard work by the Quality of Life Committee and the Staff Services Division that made this new facility possible. We also enjoyed the lunch.

Richard Seto told us that he will travel to IBM to meet the new BNL director, Praveen Choudhari.

John Hill reported on the congressional letter-writing campaign, which Tom Kirk described as a successful effort. Hill will initiate a program to encourage users to thank their congressmen by putting a "thank you" template on the letter-writing web site. Derek Lowenstein encouraged this effort.

Tom Kirk gave a brief description of the budget situation. He said that there is a general reduction of \$1.5M in the \$380M nuclear physics budget. The NSF bill is "very good," which is likely to help E949 and RSVP.

Brant Johnson reported that the date for our annual meeting has been set: 15-16 May 2003. Vicki Greene said that she had invited APS Senior Policy Fellow, Susan Ginsberg, to speak at the meeting.

Brant also reported on the activities of the Lab's Quality of Life (QoL) Committee. Apparently, the Committee's budget has been blown on expenditures for the new student/user lounge. He expressed the hope that the new Director might increase the funding. Susan White-DePace said that the QoL Committee's budget was \$500K for the first three years, but only \$50K for 2003. She said that she would like to be able to fund more social events, but that this requires an increased budget. Tom Kirk urged that the UEC not wait until the new director is in place to request more funds. Vicki Greene, Brant Johnson, and Richard Seto will ask Peter Paul to increase the budget of the QoL Committee.

Finally, Brant reported that the children of off-site users who are resident off-site will be eligible to enroll in the on-site summer camp. Susan added that employees' children will also be eligible. On-site residents will have priority; the remaining slots will be awarded by lottery.

Susan White-DePace reported that BSA is extending the thesis award program to all fields of BNL science. She said that administration of the program will be taken over by Education Office Director, Brian Murfin.

Susan said that her office is overwhelmed by the paper work required to secure approvals for foreign visitors. The FBI is taking longer to complete indices checks and it is no longer possible to grant waivers to people who have not fully complied with established procedures. She also said that when visitors coming to Brookhaven enter the country, they should make sure that their passports are stamped with a B1 visa, *not* a tourist visa. Tom Kirk said that spokesmen should get the word out to their collaborators that

compliance with procedures is essential. Vicki Greene, Dave Hofman, Brant Johnson, and Richard Seto will work with Susan to ease her difficulties.

Richard Seto described Ray Orbach's Long Range Planning Workshop, summarized in his transparencies 8-15 (http://www.phy.bnl.gov/users/seto_0203.pdf) .

The next UEC meeting will be held on 14 March 2003.

The meeting adjourned at 1340.