

Minutes of the RHIC/AGS Users Group Executive Committee 15 March 2002

Present: B. Bassalleck, R. Chrien, J. Engelage, S. Kettell, J. Mitchell, J. Thomas (ex-chair), P. Yamin (secretary)

Telephone: M. Lisa, R. Seto (chair)

Absent: M. Rosati

Guests: D. Fleming, P. Paul, A. Peskin, S. Sevia

Observers: S. Adler, B. Johnson, M. Messer, D. Morrison, M. Sadler, P. Steinberg, S. White DePace

The meeting convened at 1155. Jim Thomas acted as chair; Richard Seto was on the telephone conference connection.

Jim discussed the self-assessment rating of 4 (highest) given to the Quality-of-Life effort at BNL. While all is not perfect, there was a general consensus that a tremendous effort has been made in this area over the past year and that the rating is justified.

Discussion turned to the elimination of HEP funding for the AGS in the FY03 Presidential budget. We are seeking restoration of these funds, about \$8 million. Jim Thomas distributed a letter sent by the UEC to Senator Schumer, who will coordinate the efforts of the New York congressional delegation on our behalf. (Almost identical letters were sent to Senator Clinton and Representative Grucci.) Richard Seto commented that it is important for all concerned to write their congressmen about this situation. (A sample letter and further instructions can be found at <http://qgp.physics.iastate.edu/uec/agshep/>.) Richard has already spoken to the Phenix executive committee about this and will contact the other RHIC experiments, asking them to inspire their colleagues to write.

Steve Kettell reported that he, Vernon Hughes, Laurie Littenberg, and Lee Roberts had spoken with Ray Orbach, new head of the DOE's Office of Science, in order to apprise him of the situation at the AGS.

Acting BNL Director, Peter Paul, said that the lab is doing everything possible to remedy the situation and to also get RSVP funded for construction in FY03. He said that the worst outcome would be to simply divert money from RHIC to the AGS program.

Brant Johnson advised that it is inappropriate to use BNL resources for lobbying.

Don Fleming discussed changes underway in the ITD (<http://www.phy.bnl.gov/users/dfleming0302.pdf>.) and Arnie Peskin spoke about ITD's effort to increase support for scientific computing on Unix, Linux, and Solaris platforms. In the discussion that followed, it became clear that there is a general feeling that communication between users and the ITD could be improved. Steve Adler urged that the ITD not implement new security

measures without first discussing their impact with users. The UEC will discuss how to implement this. As a step in improving ITD/user communication, ITD representative, Susan Sevian, will regularly attend UEC meetings.

Mike Lisa discussed possible dates for our annual meeting. We settled on F/S, 9/20-21/02.

The next UEC meeting will be held (on the irregular date) 4/19/02.

The meeting adjourned at 1340.

--P. Yamin