

Minutes of the RHIC/AGS Users' Group Executive Committee Meeting 17 October 2003

Present: B. Johnson, M. Sivertz, S. White-DePace, P.Yamin (Secretary)

Telephone: V. Greene, S. Johnson, S. Pate, R.Seto, G.Westfall, G. Young

Absent: J. Engelage, D. Hofman, S. Kettell, M. Murray, C. Scarlett, M. Vazquez

Guests: G. Gross, T. Kirk, T. Ludlam, D. Peters

The meeting convened at 1145. Peter Yamin, UEC Secretary, announced that he was resigning his position effective with the November meeting.

Plans for APS/DNP Meeting

Vicki Greene outlined our plans for participation the APS/DNP meeting at Tucson. She said that we will host a reception (courtesy of BSA), at which time she will describe our organization and the RHIC/AGS physics program, and hand out copies of a flyer (for which Brant Johnson "volunteered" to draft the text). Angelika Drees will discuss RHIC operations in detail, and Steve Pate will distribute copies of his User Satisfaction Questionnaire.

Security

Dave Peters described some of the policies outlined in a new DOE Draft Order and that are likely to become mandatory within a few months. Some of these are: "public events," to which free access had previously been granted, will no longer include any event for which a control point (e.g., the Main Gate) must be passed; BNL must deny site access to any foreigner whose passport is within 6 months of expiration, even if s/he holds a valid visa; documentation must be maintained on a semi-annual basis for visitors from sensitive countries, on an annual basis for those from non-sensitive countries; and onerous reporting requirements are applied to those hosting foreign visitors. The Laboratory is trying to have some of these requirements modified, and responded to the Draft Order by the deadline, 30 September.

Users' Forum

Mike Sivertz said that the November UEC meeting will include a forum to which all users will be welcome to express their concerns, displeasures, etc. After some discussion, it was decided to hold this meeting in Berkner B on 21 November. Wolfram Fischer will describe the details of RHIC operation.

Safety

Tom Kirk stressed the importance of safety at the Laboratory. He said that DOE will adopt OSHA standards and that in order to raise safety awareness he had instituted a policy directing all working groups at the lab to devote at least 5 minutes/week to a *serious* discussion of safety issues. Vicki Greene asked, “What about users who may not have weekly meetings?” Tom urged that they “keep safety not a completely neglected state.”

Users’ Office and UEC Chairs Meeting

Mike Sivertz described the agenda for the forthcoming Users Office and UEC Chairs meeting. (See attachment.) Because there will not be enough room at the meeting to accommodate all those who may wish to attend, there was a general consensus that the open sessions should be webcast.

DOE Performance Measures for RHIC

Richard Seto described some of the ongoing effort to assist the DOE in establishing performance measures for nuclear physics, including RHIC. (His slides are available on the web at <http://www.phenix.bnl.gov/phenix/WWW/publish/seto/agsusers/Oct%202003/perform.ppt> or <http://www.phenix.bnl.gov/phenix/WWW/publish/seto/agsusers/Oct%202003/perform.pdf>). There was considerable discussion to the effect that these measures should not be written so that negative results could be interpreted as failure or that we fail to get credit for unanticipated breakthroughs. Glenn Young said that he could serve as an additional conduit for input into the process defining the measures.

The next UEC meeting will be held 21 November 2003.

The meeting adjourned at 1330.

Attachment:

ANNUAL MEETING OF USER FACILITY ADMINISTRATORS Brookhaven National Laboratory

Third Floor Conference Room
Building 1005

October 27-28, 2003

Monday, October 27

8:30 – 8:35 Users’ Center)	Opening Remarks	Susan White-DePace (BNL/RHIC)
8:35 – 8:45	Welcoming Remarks	Praveen Chaudhari (BNL Director)
8:45 – 9:15	Historical Review of Foreign Visits & Assignments	Gary Gross (BNL/Counterintelligence)
9:15 – 10:15	Foreign Visits & Assignments from the	Marshall Combs (Office of Security)

	Office of Security Perspective	
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 – 11:00	FVA from the Laboratory Standpoint	David Peter (BNL/FVA Officer)
11:00 – 11:30 Resources)	Immigration Tutorial	Brenda Kirk (BNL/Human)
11:30 – 12:30 of State)	Procedures for Visa Processing	Edward Ramotowski (Department)
12:30 – 1:45	Lunch	
1:45 – 2:45	Scientist Visa Category	James Griffin (OSTP)
2:45 – 3:00	Coffee Break	
3:00 – 4:00 Security)	Foreign Access into the Country	Ramona McGee (Homeland)
4:00 – 5:00	Open Discussion & Questions on FVA & Immigration	
6:30 -	Cocktails and Dinner Berkner Hall, Building 488 (compliments of Brookhaven Science Associates)	

Tuesday, October 28

9:00 – 9:30	Opening Discussions	Susan White-DePace
9:30 – 10:30 Office)	National Security & Visa Restrictions: Saving the US Science Enterprise	Irving Lerch (APS/ International)
10:30 – 10:45	Improving Access to DOE User Facilities	Al Ekkebus (ORNL/SNS Project)
10:45 – 12.00	Closed Session: Discussion with UEC Chairs & User Facility Administrators (Chairs Adjourn after this discussion)	
12:00 – 1:15	Lunch	
1:15 – 2:00	Tour of a RHIC Experiment and NSLS	
2:15 – 4:30	User Facility Administrator Business	
	Capturing Publication Information & Producing Annual Reports (What Works, What Doesn't)	To Be Announced
	Demographic Info on Users	Susan Strasser
	Similarities and Differences of Databases	Fran Spiller
	Formalities (our name, membership, list servers, web pages, visa web sites)	Susan White-DePace