



## All hands meeting minutes for March 17, 2017

The meeting began at 9:30. The UEC was asked to provide minutes to share with the users community. A video recording of the meeting is available within the FNAL network:

<http://vmsstreamer1.fnal.gov/Lectures/AllHands/170317AllHandsFNAL/index.htm>

Abbreviations for government and agency entities:

- White House - (WH), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) - White House <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb>
- U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate - Congress [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) <https://www.senate.gov/>
- U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) - Cabinet level department of WH <https://energy.gov/>
- Rick Perry is the Secretary of Energy <https://www.energy.gov/contributors/rick-perry>
- Office of Science (SC) - part of the DOE <https://science.energy.gov/>
- Steve Binkley is deputy director of the DOE, currently acting as Office of Science Director <https://science.energy.gov/sc-2/deputy-director-biography/>
- Office of High Energy Physics (OHEP) - part of the DOE SC <https://science.energy.gov/hep/>

Financial terms: Fiscal Year (FY), continuing resolution (CR), Million (M)

### **Nigel Lockyer - FY18 “skinny budget” - it’s a long process**

NL started the meeting with a summary of past budget ‘emergencies’, the Government shutdown of 2013 or budget cuts in previous years. Current news relates more to the severity and breadth of the FY18 cuts. However it must be noted the OMB proposes a budget and Congress later allocates funds after making adjustments.

In the FY18 “Skinny budget” presented by OMB, the SC budget is reduced by \$900M, a 17% cut. For purposes of comparison, for FY 2017, the CR OHEP budget was \$800M, of which FNAL is \$400M. How the cuts will be applied is still unknown. DOE will prepare a budget that fits within the proposed overall numbers.

Steve Binkley had a phone call with all DOE laboratory directors on March 16, 2017. There is no call to reduce their work force by SC. There is another meeting planned for the end of March.

Going forward, several scenarios exist. We have a FY17 CR running until April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017. There is hope to pass a budget for FY17. This is the most important message to convey for the UEC DC Trip. A budget is good for Fermilab as it would include new projects, such as LBNF/DUNE and IERC (Integrated Engineering Research Center). The budget numbers for LBNF/DUNE in FY17 budget are good. A FY17 budget might be followed by a CR in FY18, which would be very good for Fermilab. Alternatively there could be a CR for FY17 only. Regardless, a budget for FY18 has a long way to go.

DOE must prepare a detailed budget proposal that fits the numbers given to them by the White House. OHEP and Fermilab have been following the P5 recommendations for several years now. The highest priorities are LHC, LBNF/DUNE and PIP-II. The plan contemplates US leadership for US-based programs (e.g. DUNE). Projects like Mu2e and Muon g-2 are likely protected from any cuts as they are in the execution stage. Operations and research are more likely to face cuts than projects.

Fermilab and HEP have a strong bipartisan support in Congress and DOE. All our projects are on schedule and budget. We have had a lot of success with LCLS-II, our neutrino program and beamlines. We have several very good reviews for projects and operations.

Moving forward we have to make progress on all fronts, showcase our “successes” within the programs, be proud of our achievements, collect the dividends, and make sure that “everything shines”. The directorate will work closely with OHEP and SC. Our job is to continue to perform well and ensure that we do not hurt DOE and SC, e.g. via social media attacks on the administration that appear to come from Fermilab. There will be no “going around” the DOE plans; Fermilab will be a team player. We are well positioned. Fermilab is in a good spot; we are neither a target nor a favorite, but enjoy strong and steady support.

Questions/Answers - abbreviated

Q: Effects of the Hiring Freeze issued by White House - A: We are not affected by the federal hiring freeze. Hiring will continue.

Q: How will cuts be applied within DOE SC - A: It is too early to know what the effects will look like; no details are available yet.

Q: Salary Cuts/Layoffs/Early Retirements - A: It is too early to contemplate workforce reductions or salary changes. Once future budgets become clear, Fermilab will be creative in exploring solutions.

Q: Likelihood of both LBNF&PIP-II being funded at the same time in a reduced budget: DOE treats them as one big project, and they are high priority within DOE.

Q: Will we continue the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary - A: YES, FNAL is a success story!

Q: Batavia Road Railway Crossing - There is no news from Canadian Rails about repairs.

Q: How can we make FNAL shine - A: 10 projects that are community and DOE reviewed, continue to obtain very good reviews. Science results from FNAL based experiments. High quality research and work on projects.

Q: Support from new Energy Secretary - A: Secretary Perry has mentioned that “Laboratories are the jewels of the DOE”. He has pledged to fight for us.

Q: 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in DC - A: Getting attention on Capitol Hill currently is unlikely, everything is a bit chaotic. Keep the steady progress.

Q: March of Science - A: As private citizens you may participate as you wish in marches and rallies. Don’t portray yourself as a representative of FNAL.

Q WH Reduction of regulations - A: We work with the DOE site office in an evolutionary management and operating contract model compared to SLAC revolutionary model. We check with the site office which parts of the contract can be dropped and improve our efficiency. We do this with agreement of site offices and headquarters, a low attention process, but it is FNAL’s way forward. (Further reading, see <http://physicstoday.scitation.org/doi/full/10.1063/PT.3.3490> )

Q: Open Science grid cuts - A: The Open Science Grid is funded primarily by NSF. Computing division is aware and developing a backup plan.

Minutes drafted and signed by Thomas Strauss