

## UGBOD Meeting June 2013

May 30, 2013 – Part I

**Board Members Present:** John Arrington, Annalisa D'Angelo, Kent Paschke\*\*, Lorelei Choppard, Steffen Strauch\*, Mark Ito\*\*, Katherine Myers, Eric Voutier, Dipangkar Dutta\*, Sebastian Kuhn, Anatoly Radyushkin\*\*

\* New members

\*\* Outgoing members

**Others:** Rolf Ent, Roy Whitney, Chip Watson, Walt Akers

**Discussion of future plans and some highlights from the UGM meeting included at the end.**

Previous minutes, other important information at CEBAF Users Group wiki: [wiki.JLab.org/cugwiki](http://wiki.JLab.org/cugwiki)

### 1) Welcome – John Arrington

- With only two board meetings per year, we decided to expand the summer meeting to cover two evenings, to allow more time for discussion of active issues.
- Assignments of new members: Steffen Strauch – Computing, Dipangkar Dutta – Outreach
- New SURA/JSA partner: clarification that PAE bought the portion of CSC that is part of JSA. No details of potential impact available at this point.

### 2) Computing – Roy Whitney/Chip Watson [see also Roy's talk at the [UGM](#)]

- (Roy) Need assistance and support of “Day 1 Science Concept for 12 GeV Era” - want to be able to get science out early, things need to be ready, follow model from CERN for example, where we can do something with the data quickly.
- (Chip) Shorter range status
  - Process of upgrading farm 32 bit to 64 bit, increasing total computing power. Some codes cannot be easily modified to compile/run on the 64 bit machines, so the CC is providing assistance in getting these codes to run on the new machines.
  - First software review last year: will do the same thing again this September, with the focus being QA of numbers that go into computing requirements, budget estimates
  - Data Challenges: setting up to flip resources between lattice QCD and farm as needed
  - **New CC documentation system: in process of replacing out-of-date wiki with drupal** [<https://scicomp.JLab.org/docs>]. **Only ~25% there yet, but all information is current.**
  - Some users have been given accounts on lattice HPC computers to do exploratory work on using GPUs
  - Globus online running, provides options for fast file transfers [see item 3) below]
  - Cyber security (Roy) – changes they made have proved quite successful and we are more secure, however threat from China is very real and has not gone away. Architecture now is far more resilient.
  - Directors review of remote access a year ago. Two-factor authentication will be required for users who want to remotely operate hardware from off-site.
  - Adding a virtual windows desktop system for Users, in the process of being built up to roll out, is something many people have expressed interest in.
- Lorelei asks if computer account request form can be online – Roy responds they require a signature, but maybe part of the form can be electronic.

### 3) Computing Area Report – Mark Ito

- Scientific software committee – still meeting (every month now), **scientific software issues added to the CCPR system and area experts can track and respond to problems.**
- Globus online – in the process of rolling out, will provide mechanism for transfer of large scale files in and out of the lab (not the same as the open science grid storage resource manager). This was part of a response to the scientific computing survey from last year.
- New file transfer system “GRIDftp”. White List has been discontinued, so all users should now have access.
- MIS finished hoteling sign-up software, positive feedback so far. Most of the short-term space in the ARC is reserved at present, but need to check real usage. Some cubicles have computers, need to see how it works in practice, consider installing more computers.
- New computer request for the auditorium – there is a plan for a new computer, in the meantime and extra 1 GB of memory was installed.
- Consider a follow up survey this year or next.

### 4) User Space - Walt Akers [See [slides](#) for further details]

- **Short-term Office Reservation System is in use** for the seats in the ARC library and seats are filling up for the summer (more details in report 3) above). **Need feedback on effectiveness.**
- **Bi-annual purge of abandoned user materials** (mainly those left in F-wing offices) scheduled for week of July 8<sup>th</sup>. Email reminder was sent out to everyone; if you think you may have items that you would like to save, contact Lorelei at the User Liaison Office.
- Lease on several floors of the ARC is being terminated – staff moved to TEDF. Users who were displaced should contact Lorelei (User Liaison) for support
- Phase One of CH renovation coming to end June 2013: New roof, replacement of leaking windows, replacement 1<sup>st</sup> floor HVAC, addition of 2<sup>nd</sup> floor ladies room, overhaul of elevator system, general repairs of floors, paints, and finishes.
- Phase Two CH renovation: all options dependent on availability of funds (none at this point):
  - south side partition to separate computing equipment
  - north side single wall to separate user area for workspace
  - drop ceiling, carpeting, a conference room, and small HVAC systems to eliminate larger/noisy overhead system
  - two optional small conference rooms
  - 18 workstations added to area around the conference room
- Kent comments that having a good sink for washing dishes would be appreciated by the Users – will try accommodating this on the second floor
- John asks time scale of decision about Phase Two – Rolf responds highest priority is getting a meeting room and places for people to work there. Walt: cost estimate would be \$500-750k.
- Suggestion that John and Sebastian send an email to Mont about funding for Phase Two. Ask Mont or Bob to give a CH status report at next meeting so Users are aware of the situation
- Walt continues – **Lab/Storage space**
  - Several new and renovated spaces will be available as we return to operations – renovated Test Lab High Bay Area, new TEDF High Bay Space, newly acquired physics fabrication building, experimental staging building
  - proposed “Accelerator Technology Lab” – extension in test lab high bay, will reduce space somewhat but will have significant new capabilities with tens of MeV (HD Ice testing, detector testing, target irradiation etc)
  - However, DOE regulations that we must eliminate old storage. Off-site storage and most

transportainers must be eliminated over next 2 years, will need users and staff to collaborate to dispose of un-needed materials. Will eventually contact institutions about equipment found. **If you have materials in off-site or temporary storage areas, consider making arrangements to recover it now.**

- Kent asked for estimate of flood gate cost: \$70-100k per hall, compared to ~\$1.2M flood damage. Walt would like to install one in Hall B, where the issues started, but there is no money available. Current plan is to train more people on installation of the manual flood gates, but there are concerns about having enough time to respond. Water level monitor was installed in ditch - alarms at 20" which is half-way to flooding Hall B. Had one alarm recently, after just 20 minutes of rain.

#### 5) Quality of Life Area Report – Annalisa D'Angelo

- User Space Policy. There are many different kinds of users
- Big issue is optimization of user space in the F-wing: it's very difficult because there is no free space right now to allocate as space now is “permanently” assigned to external institutions
- How do other labs deal with this problem?
  - Smaller labs that do not have user space – external users occupy the control room, cabinets may be used for storage
  - Larger labs have space allocated to institutions – but typically number of people per institution is higher than JLab.
- Need to come up with a proposed plan – include Hall leaders in discussion and feedback from Users. Inquire from Hall leaders what space requirements of institutions are at 12 GeV.
- Major challenges right now: tracking occupied space, identifying free space, and accumulated equipment, work material, and documents, not having contacts or representatives from each institute to communicate with regarding space usage.
- **Walt – facilities is considering moving forward a policy to lock all non-primary doors after 5pm.** Board asks to be informed in advance of changes being made so there is opportunity for feedback. At the very least, pushing the 5pm time back some would be helpful, and there may be some buildings/entrances that have additional issues and user feedback could be helpful.

#### 6) Lab Update – Rolf Ent

- **Question from Kent about delayed purchase of AC in the arcs which will limit the initial beam energy available** (as mentioned at main meeting). Rolf comments that there needs to be communication about the issue as it is only something that was found out very recently. The board expressed appreciation that this was brought up at the main Users meeting, even though the exact impact and options are not yet clear, and suggested that there be a clear plan for updating the users on the consequences of this and plans to mitigate/fix the problem.
- Discussion about balance of 12 GeV/EIC manpower and efforts. Need to ramp up efforts on EIC simulations and fold in detector resolution to really prove JLab's physics case.
- There was some discussion of the proposed Tech Center for the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Oyster Point, as discussed in Jerry Draayer's talk at the [UGM](#). There was concern that such a project would interfere with the possible expansion for an EIC. Post-meeting update: An updated EIC layout was put together to minimize conflict (some discussion and pointer to the map [here](#)). Note that the proposed center shows new buildings in both the land owned by the developer and in land owned by the city, but only the construction on the developer's land is part of the proposed plan. Other construction shows possible but currently unplanned future expansions. JLab is working closely with Newport News to ensure that any development does not interfere with the possibility of a future EIC.

7) Experiment/Theory Liaison Area Report – Anatoly Radyushkin

- Several workshops in FY2013
- Several new positions:
  - Adam Szezepaniak accepted joint position at JLab, expected to start in September
  - Michael Doering appointed to a bridge position with GWU to start January 2014
  - Andre Walker-Loud accepted joint appointment at W&M, may start August 2013

8) Outreach Area Report – Kent Paschke

- Started to assemble a cohort of people (at suggestion of SURA) who would like to be contacts for interacting with Congress – in particular people in key districts (i.e. with representatives on specific committees) who can be provided with information to help them send letters and directly interact with their representatives about nuclear physics and the lab.
- After the NSAC report – the three lab directors got together to create support for the modest growth budget.
- Nuclear Physics Day on the Hill. Representatives from JLab, RHIC, and FRIB made visits to Capitol Hill in the wake of the Tribble subcommittee report to promote the modest growth scenario recommended in the report.
- NUFO event in DC – Natalie Walford and Dave Armstrong will be attending, John comments that feedback from the last NUFO event was that it was not very well advertised.
- John mentions having board members give summaries of UGBoD activities at Hall collaboration meetings – need someone to stay in contact with organizers to remind them.

May 31, 2013 – Part II

**Board Members Present:** John Arrington, Annalisa D'Angelo, Lorelei Choppard, Steffen Strauch, Katherine Myers, Eric Voutier, Dipangkar Dutta, Sebastian Kuhn

**Others:** Bob McKeown, Elizabeth Lawson

1) Lab update: budget, plans, future... - Bob McKeown

- LDRD (Laboratory Directors R&D – Discretionary funding)
  - Call for proposals was Feb 1, Director selects projects for funding in September, funds awarded in October with a starting budget of \$0.5M (about 0.5% of the lab budget – the average of other labs for this type of fund is about 2%)
  - More information: [http://www.jlab.org/div\\_dept/ldrdr](http://www.jlab.org/div_dept/ldrdr)
- Dipangkar asks if awardee's of LRDR proposals can contract out work to users – Bob responds the rules are a little vague
- Discussion about next LRP and EIC
  - EIC CD1 conceptual design report is needed in next 3 years to be able to successfully compete for the project
  - Will have a mini retreat in August for some strategic planning
  - Putting together a request for VA state funding; the state 2 year funding cycle starts next summer and the request has to go in very soon.

## 2) JSA Report – Elizabeth Lawson

- JSA Programs committee:
  - Manages and administer the JSA Initiatives fund: <http://www.jsallc.org/IF/IFIndex.html>
  - Awarded \$412K for FY2013 awards – 29 awards including 5 historical programs, 19 renewals, and 6 new projects. Matching and contributing funds over \$400K
  - 2006-2013: \$3.5M for 170 awards – \$1.4M in support for JLab users
  - 5 year contract with owners to fund JSA IF \$500K ended in 2011. In FY2012 and FY2013 the funding level was \$400K. **FY2014 commitment not yet determined. Exact date this will be set is unknown in part due to the buyout of the division of CSC that is involved in JSA, but this will hopefully happen before too long. Call for proposals will come out 2 weeks after this is determined, deadline probably 4-6 weeks later.**
  - Before the next call for proposals, there will be a re-evaluation of the proposal criteria
- SURA Relations and Outreach
  - provides for federal and state lobbying
  - actively involved with organizations enabling input of science policy issues
  - SURA distinguished friend of science award honors individuals who have supported SURA's science mission
- Nuclear Physics Capitol Hill Day – May 6, 2013 – organized by counterparts from JLab, RHIC, and FRIB. Impression is it was successful, got 5 senators signed on in support.
- At the moment, plans for resfac improvement are on hold. Occupancy is low during the shutdown, and the plan to make a major overhaul has been put off due to budgetary issues.

## 3) Foreign Visitors Area Report – Eric Voutier

- **New website exists now that contains all administrative and useful information for visitors – both US and foreign. See [http://www.jlab.org/div\\_dept/physics\\_division/researchers.html](http://www.jlab.org/div_dept/physics_division/researchers.html)**
- User Liaison Office/International Services created a new quarterly [newsletter](#); first one went out in March. Lots of useful information on visiting JLab, next newsletter is in preparation. JLab web page also has easy-to-find checklists for new/visiting scientists.
- There was a complaint about having to fill out information on forms for every visit – suggestion that form retain information about the user. Complaint about having to actively request that a form be generated and then only being able to link to it once [no updates]. Lorelei reported that a modified online version had been discussed previously – we will follow up on this and pass along these suggestions.

## 4) Postdocs/Graduate Student Area Report – Katherine Myers/Lorelei Choppard

- New representatives have been elected to the GSPDA, seem very enthusiastic
- Planning for summer picnic underway
- There are many students and postdocs interested in careers – what others have done after they left the lab, career advice, options, interest in talking to people who went into industry
- John proposed generating a list of former students and postdoc who have gone on to academia, industry, finance, other... are who willing to be contacted by current students and provide information/advice
- There was discussion about gauging interest in a **mentoring program at JLab for students/postdocs, e.g. list of staff who would be willing to act as formal mentors to students/postdocs stationed at JLab. Input and ideas welcome.**

## 5) Discussion/Future plans

- Users voted in favor of changing the rules of the election to allow only a single vote for member at large positions. This will be implemented for the next elections.
- Considering emphasizing issues of Communication. **We're looking for new ways to improve communication:** between management and users, hall collaborations and the users group, keeping off-site individual and groups more in touch, etc.... Please send your thoughts and ideas.
- More discussion about plans for F-wing office space: Lorelei, John, and Annalisa will draft up a plan that will be sent to the Hall leaders for comment, with updates to the full user group so that we can get user input on any changes.
- Go check out the wiki!!

## 6) Notes from the Users Group Meeting: <http://www.jlab.org/conferences/ugm/program.html>

- First round of LDRDs under evaluation. Proposals and details on the program at [www.jlab.org/div\\_dept/ldrd](http://www.jlab.org/div_dept/ldrd). L. Cardman heading up evaluation process
- Update on rebaselining: See slides from Mont's [UGM presentation](#)
- A plan that would allow for 4-hall operation is being discussed. The biggest impact is that if Hall D is taking beam, any other halls operating at 5 pass will receive beam at 250 MHz rather than 500 MHz (no impact if Hall D is off or you are at 1-4 passes). Current per hall not impacted, but reduced frequency will increase random coincidences, and could have a significant impact for high-rate experiments (especially for online trigger rates).
- **DOE/NSF/budget updates:** Slides from Tim Hallman, Ted Barnes, Gail Dodge
  - Hallman – slide 5: Because the sequester is based on FY12 and its cuts are smaller than the reduction in JLab upgrade funds in FY13 President's budget, this is a net increase for the upgrade budget. NP has asked to reprogram some of this to even out the impact of the sequester on various areas of the program. This plan is not yet approved, and so the final budget is still uncertain. FY14 request is at a level compatible with maintaining current scope (JLab, RHIC, and FRIB).
  - Multiple open positions at DOE and NSF. DOE plans to advertise for MEP program manager position after "sufficient preparation of the community to respond". The job is posted for a short time and if the search is unsuccessful, a significant delay is mandated before a new search can start
  - Comparative review process is ongoing. The plan is to provide feedback to individual PIs, but not global public report on outcomes or rankings.
  - NP will be creating a separate portfolio for Neutrons/Neutrinos and Fundamental Symmetries. Time scale is not clear at this point.
  - DOE wants your physics highlights
  - NSF wants your physics highlights
  - JLab wants your physics highlights