MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 27, 1994 MEETING OF THE USERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE


* retiring member

Selection of EPAC/HEPAP Nominations

The meeting began with the old Committee members discussing a slate of names to be submitted to the SLAC Director for consideration for appointment to the EPAC to replace the four retiring members (a list of EPAC members is attached). At least one of the SLUO nominations will be appointed. The Committee was asked to note the geographical and institutional balance on the EPAC. The names of three candidates were chosen and have now been submitted to the Director.

Yamamoto showed a letter from Enlo Ritter, the HEPAP Executive Secretary, requesting suggestions from SLUO for appointees to HEPAP to replace four retiring members. This is the first time that SLUO has been invited to participate in this process and all were agreed that this is a welcome development. A list of seven candidates was drawn up and will be submitted to Ritter.

New SLUO Committee Members

Jenny Huber (Oregon), Jim Johnson (Wisconsin), Uriel Nauenberg (Colorado) and Tracy Usher (SLAC) joined the meeting and were congratulated upon their election to the Executive Committee. Thanks to Henry Band, Tom Markiewicz, Bob Siemann and Dick Yamamoto who retire from the Committee after three years of service. Yamamoto presided over the nominations and elections for the officers. The officers for the 1994/95 term are:

- Chairperson: Uriel Nauenberg
- Coordinator of Committees: Frank Porter
- Executive Secretary: Philip Burrows
The new Committee continued with discussions over its composition in light of the recent election. At least 10 members are involved with SLD, and at least 6 are involved in BaBar. One person is involved with the fixed target program and one with the BES program. It was noted that none of the European collaborators from BaBar was elected, although Margaret Helton reported that the voting was close. After some discussion it was agreed that the present composition reflects the fact that SLD is the current main experimental program at SLAC, and that a large number of SLD collaborators have spent a substantial time at SLAC during the past decade, and are hence more visible and better known at the laboratory. As BaBar collaborator presence at SLAC increases it is expected that their representation on the Executive Committee will increase accordingly. It was agreed that Nauenberg will write to the Chair of the BaBar Collaboration Council to encourage BaBar collaborators to play a full and active role in SLUO.

It was reiterated that SLUO is a non-partisan organisation which represents the interests of ALL users, irrespective of their experimental affiliation. Furthermore, all SLUO members are invited to contact the Committee if they have issues to be raised. It was also reiterated that Executive Committee meetings are open to any member of SLUO who may wish to observe or participate in discussions.

Discussions with the Director

Burt Richter joined the meeting for lunchtime discussions.

Office Space

The first issue was office space for users. Several Committee members expressed concern at recent events in which two long-standing users were displaced from their offices in an attempt to solve short-term space needs for a SLAC group. Richter said that the new Physics and Engineering building is expected to be completed in the Spring of 1995 and will have roughly 170 desk spaces. There will be consolidation of effort on PEP-2 and BaBar in the new building, which may free up other office space distributed around the site.

Richter added that a recent census of users had revealed that SLAC has around 800 high energy physics users and a further 900 SSRL users; with such large numbers he felt that occasional office space problems are inevitable.

Budget Concerns

Richter reported that the DoE budget request for FY96 apparently contains the ‘Drell bump’ of an extra $52M, but WITHOUT adjustment of the base for inflation! He welcomed a recent White House initiative to increase the utilisation of government research facilities, but noted that funds have to be provided to the users of the facilities, not just the operators. Commenting on the recent Congressional allocation of extra funds for HEP operations, he noted that the funds had
been divided between Fermilab, SLAC and Brookhaven, and that SLAC had not received as large a fraction as initially hoped.

**Accelerator Operations**

For FY96 SLAC has requested funds for 9 months of accelerator operation, about 6 months being for SL/D/SLC, the remainder being divided between the fixed target program and FFTB/E144. Major PEP-2 installations in the linac tunnel require a four-month down time in 1995, and a two-month down time in 1996. Linac down time for installation work should be shorter after that. Barring dramatic physics discoveries the intention is to terminate SLC/SLD running in FY 1998.

**Long-range Plans**

Richter stated that SLAC welcomes suggestions from users for large-scale experimental projects that might run from 1999 onwards. Previous suggestions include long-baseline neutrino physics at SLAC using the Fermilab neutrino beam, although this idea is not being pursued due to environmental impact problems associated with structural expansions that would be needed at the Fermilab end. SLAC is presently involved in collaboration on satellite-based astrophysics projects, and there may be scope for expansion or further development in this area.

**Test Beams**

Richter noted that the electron and photon test beams provided by the FFTB-line have been widely used and praised. The possibility of providing hadron beams is also being studied. This would be useful, for example, for tests of particle identification systems for the BaBar detector. One possibility is to use the B-line, but this may be expensive. Use of the SSRL injector for this purpose is also under study.

**Washington APS Meeting**

Nauenberg suggested that the annual Washington APS meeting might provide an occasion and an opportunity for a coherent lobbying effort for Congressional support for HEP funding. Richter agreed and encouraged SLUO to consider making such an effort, although he noted that the meeting seems to be held when Congress is not in session, limiting the effectiveness of lobbying efforts.
Discussions with Research Division Management

Discussions continued with Steve Williams.

Office Space

The office space debate continued with Williams’ version of the recent displacement of two users. The problem arose as a result of musical chairs caused by BaBar taking over space previously occupied by the SLD software group, who are now moving from the Central Lab to the Annex. In future Williams would like to define a set of major boundaries based on experimental groups and collaborations, and leave disposition of office space within the boundaries to the group leaders and collaboration spokespersons. There was support among the Committee for this idea, as it would encourage spokespersons to integrate user-collaborators into their planning and allocation of resources. Williams has started to draw up a floorplan with a view to defining collaboration areas of responsibility. Future changes to the boundary would be determined by changing collaboration needs for office space. Williams pointed out that office space is at a premium and the situation will only get worse as further BaBar collaborators spend more of their time at SLAC. The Warehouse is essentially fully occupied, although there are desks with terminals available in IR-12.

On a more positive note, modular office furniture from SSC Lab is now in storage in East Palo Alto awaiting installation at SLAC; at least 50 desk spaces should be available. The plan is to install these units in the maze areas both upstairs and downstairs in the Central Lab Annex; anything left over will be installed in IR-12 and IR-2. Plans are being drawn up for the arrangement of the new units. Burrows noted that the provision of ethernet ports has been a long-standing issue, and hoped that a coherent strategy for wiring up the revamped areas could be developed. Williams agreed, but noted that both installation of the office units and provision of ethernet are not free.

On networking in general some Committee members expressed concern over the possibility of not being able to make adequate use of distributed UNIX computing power due to the lack of both network access and limited bandwidth.

Public Terminals

Williams agreed to buy 5 terminals for public use and solicited advice on which models would be best. Porter was delegated to help on this issue. One possibility is to provide 3 colour and 2 black-and-white NCD terminals. The terminals will be distributed between the public area on the ground floor of the Annex, and the BaBar Maze on the ground floor of the Central Lab. Williams commented that the situation with regard to obtaining ‘Mac’s from SSC Lab does not look promising due to legal proceedings in Texas.
Plans for the Annual Users’ Meeting

The Annual Users’ Meeting will be on Tuesday November 29, the day before the next BaBar collaboration meeting; it is hoped that many people will take advantage of this proximity to attend the SLUO meeting. It is hoped that John O’Fallon will be able to attend, in addition to other DoE and NSF representatives attending the BaBar meeting. A draft agenda was drawn up and is attached.

Next SLUO Executive Meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting will be shortly after the Annual Users’ Meeting, on Friday December 2.

Minutes submitted by,

Philip Burrows
Secretary/Treasurer
Users Executive Committee