

Report from User Group Board Ron Gilman (Rutgers University)

- Feedback from the Users of JLab
 - Three experimental halls running generally well, producing physics, papers, and Ph.D.'s...
 - ... but there are a variety of concerns / issues
- Oversight of Residence Facility
 - Users generally happy with Residence Facility
 - Most of management changes transparent to users
 - Some thoughts / ideas / complaints

User Group Introduction

- ~2000 physicists, ~1000 on site each year
- Despite these numbers, it often seems like various projects would benefit from having more people
- "Beam time" is the key to happiness, and I estimate the users are ~95% happy
- But for the rest of the talk, I will focus on the concerns - the other ~5%
- Please note, as I relate various user concerns, I consider some important valid concerns, but others reflect, e.g., a lack of communication, a narrow focus, a lack of understanding of the broader environment in which we operate, etc.

Concerns: 6 GeV vs 12 GeV I

- People see the present 6 GeV era as coming to an end.
- We have been preparing for 12 GeV for several years; people see that our future is 12 GeV, now / in a few years / in several years.
- We see that we need to maintain a healthy 6 GeV program, and at the same time develop the best possible 12 GeV facility.
- But budget and thus personnel issues lead to tension between the best possible 6 GeV program now and the best possible 12 GeV program in the future.
- Also, users keep wanting more included in 12 GeV project

Concerns: 6 GeV vs 12 GeV II

- Examples of tension:
 - 35% maturity of design by CD2 (goal: Sep 2007) requires 14 designers. It takes time to hire people and for them to be fully productive, so some of the design work will come from existing people who work on the 6 GeV program. But if they are not replaced, it will impact the 6 GeV program. Large demanding experiments over the next few years make schedule changes difficult.
 - Expect ~60 new hires for 12 GeV this year, with corresponding office needs. Where will they sit? I, for example, just lost my grad students cubicle last week with <1 hour notice.

Concerns: 6 GeV vs 12 GeV III

- The Users in principle understand that some 6 GeV experiments will never run.
- JLab plan: alternate 6 GeV and 12 GeV PACS until we are within ~3 years of accelerator shutdown (~CD3, Sep 2008?), then with the advice of the PAC freeze the planned experimental program and stop 6 GeV PACs.
- Some Users are concerned that the plan is not sufficiently flexible, but Larry Cardman has indicated some flexibility as well. E.g., sufficiently important new experiments could be considered by the PAC for 6 GeV era running.

Concerns: Lab focus on Administration...

- The physicists think the lab should be focused on physics.
 - Physicists have an impression that the amount of effort devoted to, e.g., administrative areas has increased relative to other areas.
 - Some physicists feel that the lab is overly focused on safety.
- Examples:
 - Christoph regularly sends out administrative / safety / security notes, but physics notes are rare.
 - Recent “In the spotlight” articles are on saving money at CHL, high-speed networking, JSA Contract, **hypernuclei**, Nobel Prizes, and a DOE environmental assessment.

Concerns: Lab focus on Administration...

- Various concerns expressed about tension between getting science done and good (?) administration.
 - Physicists feel the purpose of administration is to facilitate science, and some administrators / policies do not support / reflect this.
 - E.g., property inventories.
 - Some impression that various administrators - perhaps who do not come out of a science background - do not understand how the users are an integral part of the laboratory - but are not employees.
 - E.g., my office story.

Concerns: 6 GeV

- Much of the remaining highly-rated 6 GeV program requires close to 6 GeV beam energy, but the current limit is around 4.7 GeV.
- Swapam Chattopadhyay described the C50 plan to the UGBoD to refurbish cryomodules so that we get back to about 5.7 GeV capability by ~October 2007, and to 6 GeV by October 2008.
- The Users are very pleased, and eagerly anticipate running the nearly 6 GeV experiments during 2008.

Concerns: Computer Security

- DOE labs are under real threats from serious hackers.
- DOE security teams manage to find various weaknesses in lab security systems.
- Updated JLab policies will decrease ease of use, but provide greater security for users. For example (my Linux biases):
 - Port / vulnerability scanning of machines
 - Helpdesk open all day
 - Larger security staff
 - PII policies
 - Limited net connectivity to not-up-to-date machines
 - Wireless on jlab_secure or conference networks only
 - Strong authentication?
 - Level 1, 2, 3, 4 machines

Concerns: Position in Nuclear Physics Community and the 2007 Long Range Plan

- JLab users represent about 25-30% of the US Nuclear Physics community, funding, and new Nuclear Physics Ph.D.'s.
- The community has been under-represented in the American Physical Society Division of Nuclear Physics Executive Committee and in the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee.
- This year "we" conducted a write-in campaign to get candidates on the DNP ballot - Larry Cardman for chair, and Haiyan Gao and Krishna Kumar for Executive Committee.
- It could be important whether the "resolution" committee for the Long Range Plan is representative of the community or not.

Concerns: JSA Transition

- Much of the JSA transition has been fairly transparent to the users.
- Impressions generally favorable, eg:
 - Positive comments about Mike Dallas from those of us who have met him / seen him in action.
 - Positive comments about management of purchasing.
 - Positive comments about converting some techs from contract to regular positions.
 - Positive comments about use of CSC expertise to roll out some computer projects faster.

JSA Initiatives Fund

- There was a brief discussion during the UGBoD meeting Oct 20.
- Strong support on UGBoD for continuing existing programs, such as:
 - Sabbaticals
 - Graduate student fellowships
 - Isgur fellowship
 - Thesis Prize
- Two ideas brought up:
 - Expanded Isgur fellowship program, so we have 2-3 fellows at a time
 - Support / enhancement of annual UG meeting.

Residence Facility

- Most of changes transparent to users:
 - Employees now work for SURA, not JLab.
 - Fire suppression / landscaping / trash removal / mail / FedEx / Copies / Water and Sewage / Snow Removal / ... handled by SURA, not JLab.
- Telephones: people now need to dial 7 digits, instead of 4.
- Keys: new key code system being implemented considered to be an improvement over going to guard to get key.
- Security gate not yet moved - when it gets moved likely people will park at CEBAF Center, to avoid the annoyance of going to Jefferson Ave to go around to the accelerator site.

Residence Facility - Informal Survey

- Several people indicated they always try to stay at the ResFac.
- "I am very happy with it, it is always very clean."
- "Most rooms are just fine, but in some the beds are uncomfortable, and need to be replaced."
- "It is fine, but the prices have gone up over the past few years."
- "I like the refrigerators in the rooms, but if I am just there for a few days I often turn it off so it is quieter. The AC/heat units are sometimes noisy. And I usually turn off the computer in the room to keep it quiet too."

Residence Facility - Great Room

- The Great Room is often reserved for end of run parties, etc.
- If someone hosting the party is staying at the ResFac, it appears that there is no problem reserving the Great Room.
- If no host is staying at the ResFac, the policy is: signatures are required from the SURA president and JLab Director, and an AD must be present at the party if alcohol is served.
 - Do we have to be this restrictive? Do we need the JLab Director's signature, and an AD present? (Is this a result of DOE policy or SURA/ResFac policy?)

Residence Facility Computing

- General UGBoD view - from people who are mostly local and do not stay at ResFac:
 - Many visitors bring their own laptops and do not need the computers. (Or the network - apparently JLab wireless is accessible from at least some of ResFac rooms.)
 - Many other visitors are within a few minutes walk of their offices, so not having computers is not a big deal.
 - It probably is not necessary to replace all computers.
 - Given new JLab computer security policies, it would be better for users to have laptops borrowed from JLab.
- But it is observed that the computers in the Great Room are often in use, so these (and the printers) should be kept / replaced.

Summary

- Users generally satisfied with the JLab research situation, and will continue to be as long as physics is getting done.
- There are some concerns - despite this focus during this talk, the main message you should understand is that people are generally happy.
- ResFac at this point remains the preferred place to stay.