Community Voice

FRA Visiting Committee Meeting

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- User participation in physics at Fermilab
- Student Training, Travel and Quality-of-life
- Summary

User participation in physics at Fermilab

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International institutions have expressed an interest in Tevatron collider experiments "till the end"

Belief in Europe: "competition from Fermilab is good for LHC"

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LHC@FNAL CMS & ATLAS

Significant discussion of the prospect of ATLAS group at Fermilab:

US collaborators in CMS concerned about dilution of USCMS support (Fermilab is the only USCMS host lab, ATLAS already has strong support from BNL, ANL, LBL, SLAC)

Fermilab users who are ATLAS collaborators generally positive about ATLAS presence at Fermilab: believe that this benefits them, and benefits Fermilab (and hence benefits US HEP)

Issue on hold since ATLAS group @ FNAL will not form until Tevatron run concludes

Quality of Life – Summer Housing

Summer housing in the village as well as apartments/houses over the full year are in short supply

As a result visitors, especially those who cannot drive, are forced to reduce their presence at Fermilab

more housing would increase user participation

For visitors who cannot drive or do not have access to a car, late night shifts are a significant inconvenience

Quality of Life – International Visitors

Obtaining US visas is another major issue which affect experiments badly

The process of obtaining US visas is extremely long (lately up to 3-4 months of wait time), expensive for visitors (hundreds of dollars) and with un-predictable outcome

It is becoming worse (longer delays, etc.) over last 6-12 months

Student Training

Perceived need for students to get more general/overview education

Re-starting "University of the Tevatron " (potentially re-naming it) would help to provide important education to our young colleagues

Experiments can help with speakers (D0 has volunteered)

Strong student community (currently 60-80 Ph.D.'s per year) an asset for Fermilab

significant fraction of ~1200 total physics Ph.D.'s per year (source: APS)

refresher lectures and specialized lectures found helpful (summer lecture series appreciated)

Summary

- Current Fermilab physics program perceived as exciting and productive
- Interest remains strong in post-Tevatron physics program
- Users want to be informed of key decisions
- Compared to low morale last year due to bleak budget situation, morale is good this year