

## **Summary of LPCAB Phone Meeting April 17 2008**

Present: Joel Butler, Bob Clare, Sarah Eno, Harvey Newman, Ian Shipsey.

The LPCAB met from 1 p.m. CDT to 2 p.m. CDT by telephone.

We started by stressing that an important role of the LPCAB is to help create or enhance the conditions that will enable to LPC to continue to flourish and take it to the next level.

The Board felt the charge circulated April 15 2008 was comprehensive.

The Board expressed its appreciation for the slides provided by Dan and Chris on April 15 2008 in response to the charge. The slides describe substantial progress in the LPC in the past year, including increased university involvement, the success of the LPC workshops, the launch of topological groups etc. There are many areas of interest to US CMS physicists that are being pursued at the LPC. And the LPC is performing many useful services that help US CMS.

We ran through the charge and correlated it with the slides.

The following items were also discussed.

1) Conveners play a pivotal role in ensuring LPC effectiveness with USCMS and CMS. There is concern that some of the conveners at LPC (and at CMS) may be too junior and too interested in furthering their own careers rather than focusing on making the group they convene a success. If this is an accurate picture, systematically pairing a junior convener with a senior physicist as second convener may provide more balance and be a way to move forward .Dan and Chris are asked to give their evaluation of the situation and comment.

2) It was suggested that the slides describing LPC activity seem highly focused on Fermilab and on people who gravitate around LPC rather than elsewhere. Since some of the slides were prepared as a talk intended for the USCMS Puerto Rico meeting this may seem natural, but the importance of the university groups to and the LPC relation to them is not brought out distinctly except in the Physics Forum.

There are many Fermilab mentors, and these are all listed. But there are other mentors as well in US CMS. The impression given was felt by some to indicate that the LPC does not see itself as part of the greater USCMS activity, with a need to reach out as well as pull people in. These observations lead into a discussion of how the LPACB can help the LPC enhance outreach and engagement to USCMS. Some suggestions included arranging for teaching relief for Chris and/or adding a convener-level person to the LPC portfolio with a main job of performing outreach and engagement with USCMS.

3) The Board would like to know more about the connection mechanisms, both formal and informal, that each individual LPC convener has with USCMS and CMS. Dan and Chris might be able to sketch this out for us. The Board will also ask some conveners directly.

4) The Board would like to understand the relationship between conveners of POGs and topology groups and the LPC leadership. Are conveners acting largely autonomously or in concert with a central plan? Are there regular meetings with conveners to discuss strategy and leadership issues? What feedback do conveners receive on their performance?

5) Several years from now the novelty of being at CERN will fade, many US groups will bring people back to this side of the pond. Some will look to relocate their people to LPC. In light of this, the Board would like to know how the LPC leadership want the LPC to evolve in the next two years and next four years?

Consider a university faculty member in a medium to large university group where there may be 4-5 USCMS faculty, 3-4 postdocs and 5 students. What factors would contribute to this faculty member deciding that their student or post doc is better located at the LPC than at the home institution? It seems to some of the Board that the LPC must ultimately be a premier “place” for discovery in LHC physics, by which we mean that LPC enables USCMS physicists working at the universities and working at LPC to make physics discoveries. If we can achieve that, the LPC will provide huge added-value to USCMS and contribute mightily to the success of CMS.

