Ron Moore, new chair of the Users' Executive Committee

Ron Moore, head of the Tevatron Department, in the control room. Moore was elected in September as new chair of the Users' Executive Committee. As head of the Tevatron Department, Ron Moore is part of an on-call group that accelerator operators can page at any hour, day or night, with problems.

As the newly elected chair of the Users' Executive Committee, Moore will be on call to represent more than 2,000 Fermilab users in an important but far less sleep-disrupting role.

The UEC's typical roles include organizing the Users' Meeting in June and serving as a liaison between users and Fermilab.

UEC committee members elected Moore as chair in early September. Moore decided he wanted to be a member of the committee last year at the suggestion of colleagues. Last year he served on the Users' Meeting Committee and chaired the Quality of Life subcommittee. He also participated in the UEC's annual trip to Washington with the SLAC and U.S. LHC Users Organization, leading to a greater interest in public outreach.

As part of that public outreach, Moore began blogging in June on Quantum Diaries, where he shares an inside look at the laboratory and writes about how scientists work, along with posts about what's going on outside the laboratory. He also provides daily updates on his Twitter and Facebook accounts, both of which have more than 300 followers.

During his one-year term as chair, Moore hopes Fermilab's users will actively participate in activities they arrange. Other priorities include making sure amenities users enjoy, Director's Corner

PASAG

Last week the High Energy Physics Advisory Panel (HEPAP) received the report of the Particle Astrophysics Scientific Assessment Group (PASAG) and approved it unanimously for transmission to DOE and NSF. Professor Steve Ritz of the University of Santa Cruz chaired the assessment group. They worked over the last several months on its charge to "re-examine current and proposed U.S. research capabilities in particle astrophysics ... needed to achieve an optimum program in the context of various budget scenarios."

In putting together the program under various budget scenarios, the PASAG stated explicitly their criteria for setting priorities. These criteria, if accepted by DOE, would serve as a guide to what belongs and does not belong in a DOE program such as ours. Using these criteria, the demarcation for what belongs in the DOE program is judged by the impact on fundamental research and the special strengths that particle physicists bring to the table, not on specific topics or techniques. One important consequence is that work on the Cosmic Microwave Background that had been effectively excluded before is recommended in all budget scenarios.

For our Fermilab program, this report is very favorable. Ongoing programs such as the Dark Energy Survey are fully supported in all budget scenarios. For the future, there is strong emphasis on the study of dark matter and dark energy. PASAG recommends the scaling of CDMS to a 100-kilogram detector mass at Canada's SNOLAB in all budget scenarios, but it leaves the choice open for what technologies should be scaled to 1-ton detector mass and beyond. An important recommendation by PASAG for future projects in dark energy is to optimize the combined reach of space- and ground-based experiments. For us the study of dark energy would start with DES and would continue with some combination of JDEM, LSST, and...
such as Fermilab's pool and gym, remain open as much as possible.

Moore earned bachelor's degrees in physics and mathematics at Penn State University. As a Ph.D. student at the University of Michigan, Moore worked on the L3 experiment at CERN and joined the CDF experiment as a post-doc.

Moore joined Fermilab in 2001 in the Accelerator Division's Tevatron Department and is still a member of the CDF collaboration. He grew up in Greensburg, Pa., and lives in Batavia.

— Chris Knight

Fermilab releases long-range accelerator schedule

Fermilab Deputy Director Young-Kee Kim released the laboratory's new draft schedule for accelerator experiments during a presentation to the High-Energy Physics Advisory Panel last week.

The new proposed schedule, which stretches to 2013, shows plans to keep the Tevatron running through 2011. Fermilab then proposes to shut down the accelerator complex for about a year to upgrade the proton source and change the configuration of the NuMI beam.

Both the long-range schedule and a two-year, near-term schedule are available at the HEPAP program planning Web pages.
Beam is back in the LHC
From symmetry breaking, Oct. 26, 2009

CERN reports that beams of protons and lead ions were injected into the Large Hadron Collider this weekend. The beams made a partial tour of the LHC in both directions before being dumped. This marks the first time in more than a year that particles have entered the LHC, and the first time ever that lead ions traveled through part of the LHC.

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