



RHIC & AGS USERS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dec 12, 2002

Berkner - Room C

11:45 to 1:30

Dial in connection: 631-344-2260

Agenda

- 11:45 Introductory Remarks: Richard Seto
- 12:00 State of the Users: RKS
- 12:30 Short reports/discussion from committees
 - Quality of life- Steve Pate/Jane- BNL committee
 - By-laws- John
 - Thesis - Jane
 - Public affairs - John
- 12:45 Report on computing resources etc: Jack Engelage
- 1:05 Foreign Visitors and assignments: Susan White-DePace
 - Foreign Affairs, the front gate, and scanning badges - a discussion - Vicki

Intro

- Meeting Time
 - Looks like Friday at 11:45-1:30 is OK
 - Do we want to start using a video conference room?
- State of the Users

My hope: concrete set of Goals/tasks for each committee

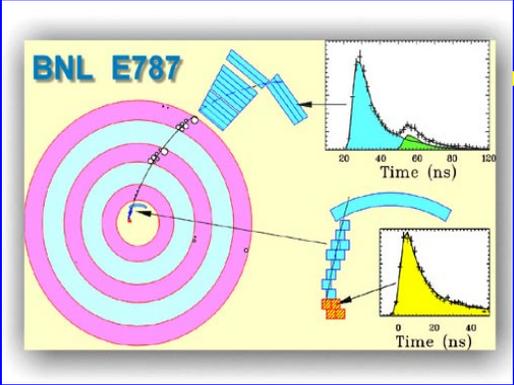
State of the Users: Outline

- Who are we? - priorities in perspective
- Tasks ahead of us - Worries and opportunities
 - Visa's and immigration
 - Computing and communications (computing, and quality of life)
 - Public affairs
 - Note: what is not here
 - Housing etc
- Some random important things to remember
 - protocol



Who are we?: RHIC/AGS Users

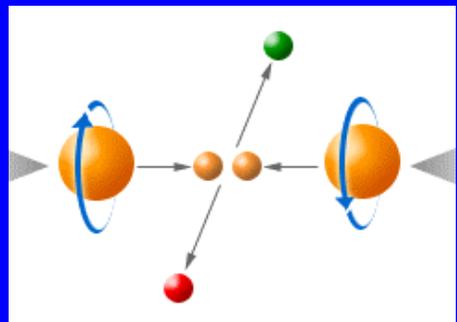
Organization of Users of RHIC/AGS Complex ++



- Membership ~ 1800
- 1/2 in US, 1/2 RHIC
- BAF will grow
- Better name?

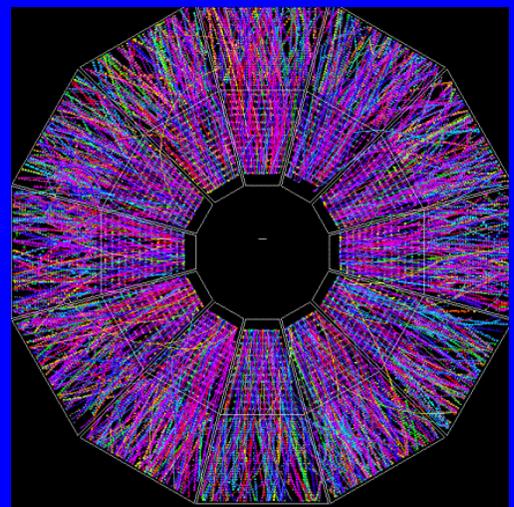


Particle Physics
(AGS)
NSF RSVP



Medium Energy
Spin Physics
(RHIC)

RHIC upgrades (detector/luminosity), eRHIC



Nuclear Physics
(RHIC)

Biology
(Booster Applications
Facility - BAF)
~40, growth to 200?



Accelerator Physics
(ATF)
Major focus of DOE

Purpose

- To give an independent voice to users
 - Channel for communication to BNL management
 - Free to lobby government agencies/representatives as private citizens
 - Indep of BNL management - though we work closely with them
- Users' can be a strong voice
 - BNL/BSA
 - very receptive (will this continue?)
 - Congress/DOE
 - We have to be assertive
 - Requires a clear message delivered persistently



Problem: Visas/Immigration

- The issue
 - Science is International - Foreign collaboration is critical to our science
 - Policy is from highest levels of gov't (9/11)
 - Affects are NOW
 - My post-doc/RHIC running/spin meeting etc etc
 - Front gate/badging
 - Access to BNL
 - ...
 - Policy is developing
 - Not clearly understood/articulate/communicated
 - AT all levels
 - Confusion and anger amongst users
 - User's center at the center of this storm



The Task

- Articulate our needs to affect (OR CHANGE!) policy
 - DOE (communicate with point people)
 - Congress (lobby)
- Work with BNL management/Users' center to establish policies acceptable to users within govt guidelines
- Serve as a conduit to communicate with users' to get cheerful cooperation

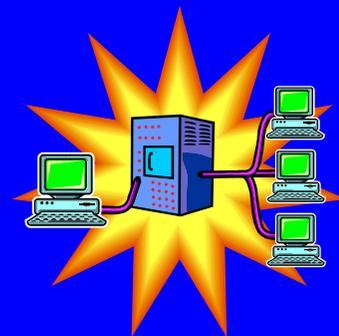


Problem: Computing and Communications

- The good: by its nature BNL is a multi-disciplinary user facility
 - note 1800 members of RHIC/AGS users
 - Collaborations are getting larger and more offsite
- Cultural problem - Lab-centric attitude
 - Historical
 - Changing!
 - Difficult to change
- Historically Computing Dept has NOT seen its major purpose to serve other areas of the lab
 - ~ e.g. particle physics
 - New set of priorities

The Task: change the culture

- Problem of education, persuasion and communication with lab personal
- Computing
 - working with ITD to foster communication between the experiments/users and computing personnel
 - Understanding need for reliability
 - Computer connections
 - People connections - email
 - Large area networks
 - Offsite users and computers
- Improvement of offsite participation facilities
 - Video/teleconfencing/streaming etc - particularly for large meetings



Students/Post-docs

- Problem - Grad student/post-doc malaise
- Solution - ?

Public Affairs (MONEY)

- Funding is lifeblood of science
 - NSF has passed bill to increase budget
 - RSVP?
 - DOE???
 - Increase in funding?
 - DOE OS director (orbach) setting up plan for future of large facilities (NLC, RIA, new light source
 - Where do we stand at the DOE? Funding for RHIC upgrades etc
 - For DOE/NP people - RIA the 10 ton gorilla
 - New congressman - Bishop to visit BNL w/orbach



The TASK (get money)

- NOW
 - Figure out what is happening with new budget/continuing resolution
 - Figure out when to write/visit
 - Organize writing/visits to congress
- Longer term
 - Get to know congressman
 - Arrange visits to congress
 - Cooperate with other UEC's/APS/etc



Some things to remember - protocol

- Some important things to remember
 - People take the UEC seriously
 - Corollary - you can say what you want, but be careful how you say it
 - When sending something sensitive - add a statement - "PLEASE KEEP PRIVATE"
 - Be careful on forwarding stuff (me!)
 - Take care in speaking "for UEC"
 - Lobbying organization



- Likened to Teamsters - OK - except for shady element
- Members unruly
- Members disagree with each other
- Members held together by deeply held priority - SCIENCE

- BNL/BSA has been receptive to the UEC
 - Need to watch new administration - visit early
 - Speak carefully

To conclude

- In the next 2 months -
 - Goals for committees
 - Public affairs/Foreign on fast track
 - Computing going already
 - (letter about election)
- Tasks are
 - daunting - far reaching
 - BUT critical for the future of science at BNL
- Note: in some places we have made significant progress

