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Observer's Report for NSCL PAC40

I was afforded the privilege to observe NSCL PAC40 on April 18-19 on the campus of Michigan State University. The meeting consisted of the following voting members, Kim Lister (UM Lowell), Augusto Macchiavelli (LBNL), Joe Natowitz (Texas A&M), Erich Ormand (LLNL), Berta Rubio (IFIC-Valencia), Guy Savard (ANL), Hendrik Schatz (NSCL), and Phil Woods (Edinburgh), along with the following non-voting members, Jill Berryman (NSCL), Calem Hoffman (ANL/Users Committee), and Brad Sherrill (NSCL). As can be seen, the committee was comprised of world-leaders in all aspects of nuclear science. This knowledge was on display throughout the meeting as measurements relating to all things nuclei, ranging from structure to beyond the standard model to the cosmos, were proposed by the user community at large. Below I detail a few personal observations and give some comments on my observations.

The single word that comes to mind following my observation experience is transparency. Firstly, this started with providing information and support to the users to complete their proposals, and continued with clear communication between the facility and the PAC members. For example, an emphases was made by the scientific director to the PAC to foremost determine which proposals presented the most compelling physics cases. Secondly, the dialog between the various PAC members was refreshingly honest and direct. Perhaps most importantly, the PAC members were transparent in their recommendations to the scientific director by producing an efficient prioritization of the scientific requests. Because of this, all members of the community, the NSCL management, and the funding agencies, can be sure that the facility will continue to be used to its full science potential. Lastly, encouragement of my participation in the PAC meeting process points to the facilities encouraged transparency with the community.

The members of the PAC were faced with a difficult task, having the ability to recommend only $\sim 1/3$ of the total number of facility beam hours that were requested. While encouraging for our field that so much interest surrounds the NSCL and the rare-isotope program there, I did not envy their position. However, in my opinion, the group navigated this daunting task with persistence and keen interest. Often times I found it a challenge for me personally to not be able to get involved in the discussions that were taking place for each of the more than 40 physics proposal due to the enthusiasm and excitement the PAC members had about the possibilities to learn new physics.

In summary, my observations from the meeting of NSCL PAC40 were positive. The PAC members held to the tasks appointed to them, and as expected, took seriously the impact that these meetings, and their recommendations, have on the science being conducted in our field. While the community gave them, and the NSCL scientific director, a difficult task, they performed admirably. In addition, I am once again thankful to the director for the openness provided to me on this occasion. I believe that this conveys and preserves the strong relations between the NSCL and its users.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Calem R. Hoffman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Calem R. Hoffman