



Funding, Politics, Programmatic

Peter Steinberg, BNL

August 12, 2011

Meeting with Doon Gibbs

- ❖ We had an hour-long meeting with BNL management
 - ❖ Doon Gibbs - Deputy Directory for Science & Technology
 - ❖ Suzanne Davidson - BNL CFO for Finance
 - ❖ Bob Lincoln - Chief HR Officer
- ❖ We arrived with one primary issues
 - ❖ to give more priority to users when figuring out summer housing
- ❖ And several subsidiary issues
 - ❖ Kinder housing long-term cancellation policy
 - ❖ Automatic survey when guests check out
 - ❖ A benchmark survey for other labs, to see how they handle housing issues
 - ❖ A questionnaire for the BNL community (RHIC, NSLS, CFN)
 - ❖ Reopen possibility of lab offering a “welcome packet” to new guests

Unpaid bills

- ❖ As it happened, management (Davidson) had issues to raise with us (the users) for which we were not prepared
 - ❖ Unpaid housing bills by institutions who have longstanding accounts, despite BNL's stated policy that all guests at dorms / guesthouse should have a credit card.
 - ❖ Unpaid bills for items and services provided by the lab, due to empty group accounts. This issue seemed to include everything from pens / paper to technician time
- ❖ It was unclear in both cases how many cases were from the three users' groups (RHIC, NSLS, CFN) so we have asked for a bit more of a breakdown.
- ❖ In general it was decided to see whether the issue involved individuals, groups, etc. and see if informal solutions could be found short of simply cutting off all group accounts.

Letter to Doon

Currently, our major concerns are housing and improving how all guests, users, and visitors are welcomed to BNL. We appreciate the complex nature of housing issues and, we have two recommendations for your consideration:

1. raising the relative priority for users needing summer housing at BNL
2. we also request that BNL replace its current cancellation policy for long-term reservations (greater than 15 days) to require a 5 day notification of cancellations with a maximum total charge after that of \$500 and to mention a contact to evaluate special requests or exemptions of this policy.

Housing crunch

- ❖ The housing crunch from June was a major point of discussion
- ❖ General sense was that this June was a “perfect storm”
 - ❖ Surprising increase in number of summer students (due to an uncorrected “mistake” in the funding)
 - ❖ Closing of Fleming house
- ❖ Some concern from lab about complaining directly to DOE
 - ❖ They are worried about negative repercussions at a time when they are struggling to build new buildings on site
- ❖ Real need for information on scope of problem: just June, just RHIC, etc.?
 - ❖ We raised issue of how to track rejected requests for housing. Information presumably incomplete (e.g. if they don’t record phone requests)

Survey of other labs

- ❖ Survey designed by UEC Chairs & SWD to get better sense of how other labs handle the housing problem
 - ❖ Who uses it? Who maintains it?
- ❖ SWD will distribute it to NUFO lab reps who will get the information from their respective staff services people (e.g. Jeff Swenson for BNL)
 - ❖ Doon Gibbs thought we could send it directly to the Swenson counterparts, but we are sticking to the original plan
- ❖ Davidson recommended also checking lab websites for their “outward-facing” policies, i.e. those seen by typical users

1. My institution provides on-site/guest housing (yes/no)
2. Who funded the construction of your guest housing? (i.e. , DOE, state, private foundation, etc.)
3. Who is responsible for the operation of the guest housing?
4. Who is responsible for the maintenance of the building? (paint, windows, doors, etc)
5. Who provides and maintains the infrastructure, such as, light, water, heating, etc.?
6. Who is responsible for the cleaning?
7. Is the operation of the guesthouse subsidized in any way by your home institution? Yes/no
8. Are individuals, other than guests of you facility, permitted use of your guest housing? Yes/no
9. How are the rates for housing determined? How do the rates charged by hotels in the surrounding area compare with your on-site housing rates?
10. How many rooms are available at your facility?
 - How many single rooms are available
 - How many double rooms are available
 - How many triple-occupancy rooms are available?
 - Do any of the rooms share facilities (e.g., bathrooms, cooking facilities)? (yes/no)If yes, please provide details
11. What amenities are available to the customer in the room?
 - Easy access high-speed Internet (yes/no)
 - TV (yes/no)
 - coffee pot (yes/no)
 - drinking water (yes/no)
 - microwave (yes/no)
 - fridge (yes/no)
 - iron (yes/no)Comments/explanation:
12. Are long-term housing available, such as studios or one-bedroom units?
13. Do you have housing staff available 24/7? (yes/no)
If no, please provide hours that staff is available.
14. Do you have on-site amenities available for guests? (yes/no)
Please provide details
15. Do you have on-site food services (yes/no)
If yes, what are the hours of operation?
If no, what is available in the local area?
16. Is shopping transportation provided by your institution to guests without their own transportation? (yes/no)
If yes, please provide details:
17. Is there a laundry room on site? (yes/no)
18. Are there exercise facilities available to guests? (yes/no)

Housing survey for BNL

- ❖ Survey of users being worked out by CFN UEC chair
- ❖ Based on 2006 RHIC housing survey
- ❖ Some concern by Lab that questions might inadvertently stir up sensitive issues
- ❖ Request for some input into the wording before distributing it

Conclusions

- ❖ UEC Chairs & SWD raised pressing housing issues with upper BNL management
- ❖ Good to open up communication channels with BNL
 - ❖ Of course, communication is a two-way street
- ❖ Important to work out limited set of issues ahead of time
 - ❖ They are busy and it's important not to overstuff the meeting
- ❖ Next time we need to work out the agenda from both sides
 - ❖ Lots of time spent on issues for which neither side was fully prepared

❖