

The Poster

We suggested a few changes
smaller flames
updated agenda

We're waiting for the next
version



"RHIC Sets World Record for Hottest Man-Made Temperature" – The Verge

"Heaviest Antimatter Found: Made in U.S. AtomSmasher" – National Geographic

"In Brookhaven Collider, Scientists Briefly Break Law of Nature" – NY Times

"Early Universe was 'Liquid-Like'" – BBC News

The 2013 RHIC/AGS Annual Users' Meeting
Accelerating Discovery
A Collider for Hot Science

June 25–28, 2013
Brookhaven National Laboratory

topical workshops:
June 25–26

plenary sessions:
June 27–28

register at:
<http://www.bnl.gov/aum>

organizing committee:
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Users Meeting Agenda

=====Workshops=====

Tuesday June 25th

Morning 1: Non-equilibrium effects at RHIC and the LHC

Morning 2: Forward Upgrades in PHENIX and STAR

Afternoon 1: p(d)Au results and plans (*including ridge and e+A*)

Afternoon 2: RHIC Spin Review and Outlook (*including e+p*)

Wednesday June 26th

Morning 1: U+U and Cu+Au Geometry Studies at RHIC

Morning 2: ~~EIC Whitepaper Review and Outlook~~ (*interspersed with other workshops*)

Afternoon: Special Plenary Session on Nuclear Physics at a Glance

-Outlook for RHIC (Muller?)

-Fundamental Symmetries (Michael Ramsey-Musolf?)

-FRIB (Brad Sheril or Witek Nazarewicz?)

---break---

-JLAB (Curtis Meyer?)

-EIC (Ullrich?)

-Nuclear Theory (?)

=====Banquet/Dinner=====

Users Meeting Agenda

=====Thursday Plenaries=====

Welcome

CAD Run 13 Report

STAR Run 13 Report

PHENIX Run 13 Report

---break---

Thesis Award Presentations

Flash Talks

Presentation of Documentary Film Project (Mocsy)

-----Lunch-----

UEC Election Results (Bai)

Summary of UEC Actions (Bai)

DOE Report

NSF Report

---break---

Our understanding of the initial state at RHIC

Status of extraction of transport parameters from flow

Progress at RHIC on studying the spin of the proton

=====Friday Plenaries=====

Summary of new STAR Results

Summary of new PHENIX Results

---break---

Summary of recent results from the LHC

STAR Upgrade plans

PHENIX Upgrade plans

-----Lunch and Adjourn-----

A Poll of the RHIC Users

I showed the following slides to Lanny Bates Thursday morning

He got the message and was particularly interested in the idea that RHIC needs to compete and remain cost competitive to maintain and grow the user base

I think we can expect further clarifications soon along with perhaps a new strategy (fingers crossed)?

but the interim “solution” is not likely to change until the contract is re-bid

A Poll of the RHIC Users

To help us gauge the reaction of our users to possible changes in BNL food services, the RHIC and AGS Users Executive Committee organized a poll of our users.

The poll was sent out at 5pm Wednesday night.

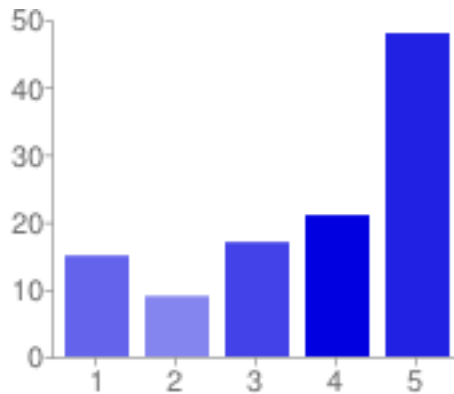
The results shown here reflect the 120 responses received in the first three hours.

In addition to the analytics shown, many users left detailed comments

We will continue to collect input but the message already seems clear from the initial responses

Results of Users Poll

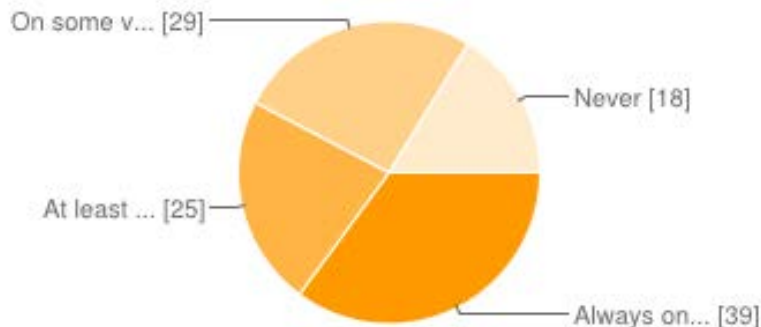
How important is weekend food service at the cafeteria in Berkner hall when you visit BNL or host visitors at BNL?



From (1) not at all important to (5) it's crucial

- 1) 15%
- 2) 8%
- 3) 15%
- 4) 19%
- 5) 44%

How frequently do you or your visitors use weekend food service when at BNL?



35%: Always on visits

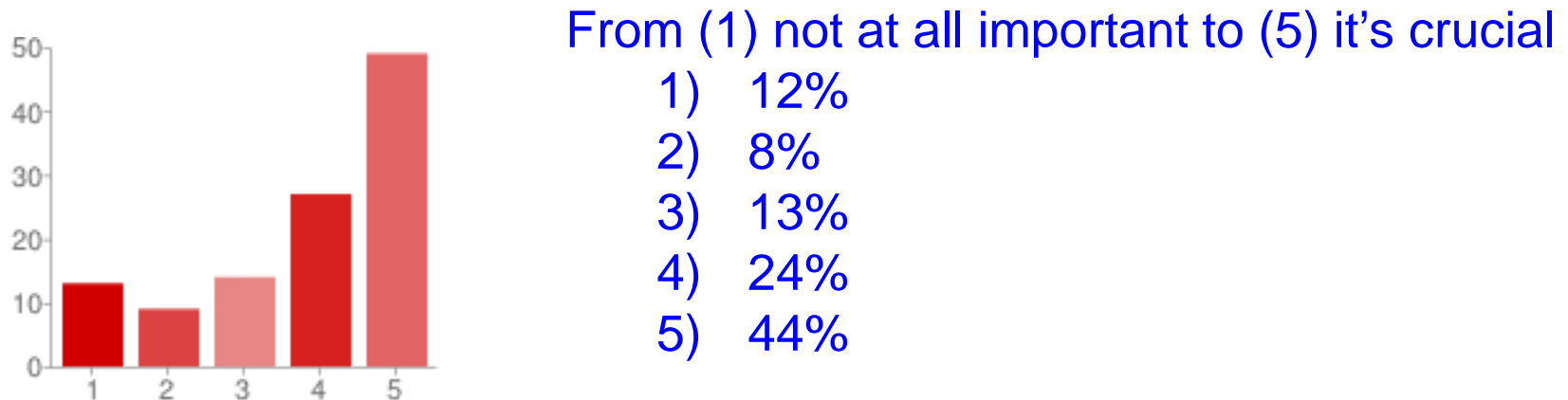
23%: At least once each visit

26%: On some visits but not always

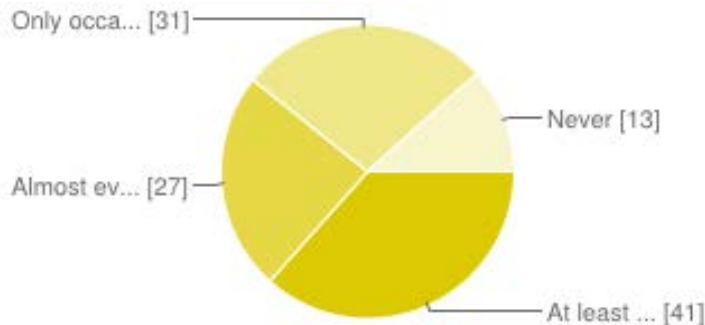
16%: Never

Results of Users Poll

How important is the evening food and drink service at the Brookhaven Center when you visit or have visitors at BNL?



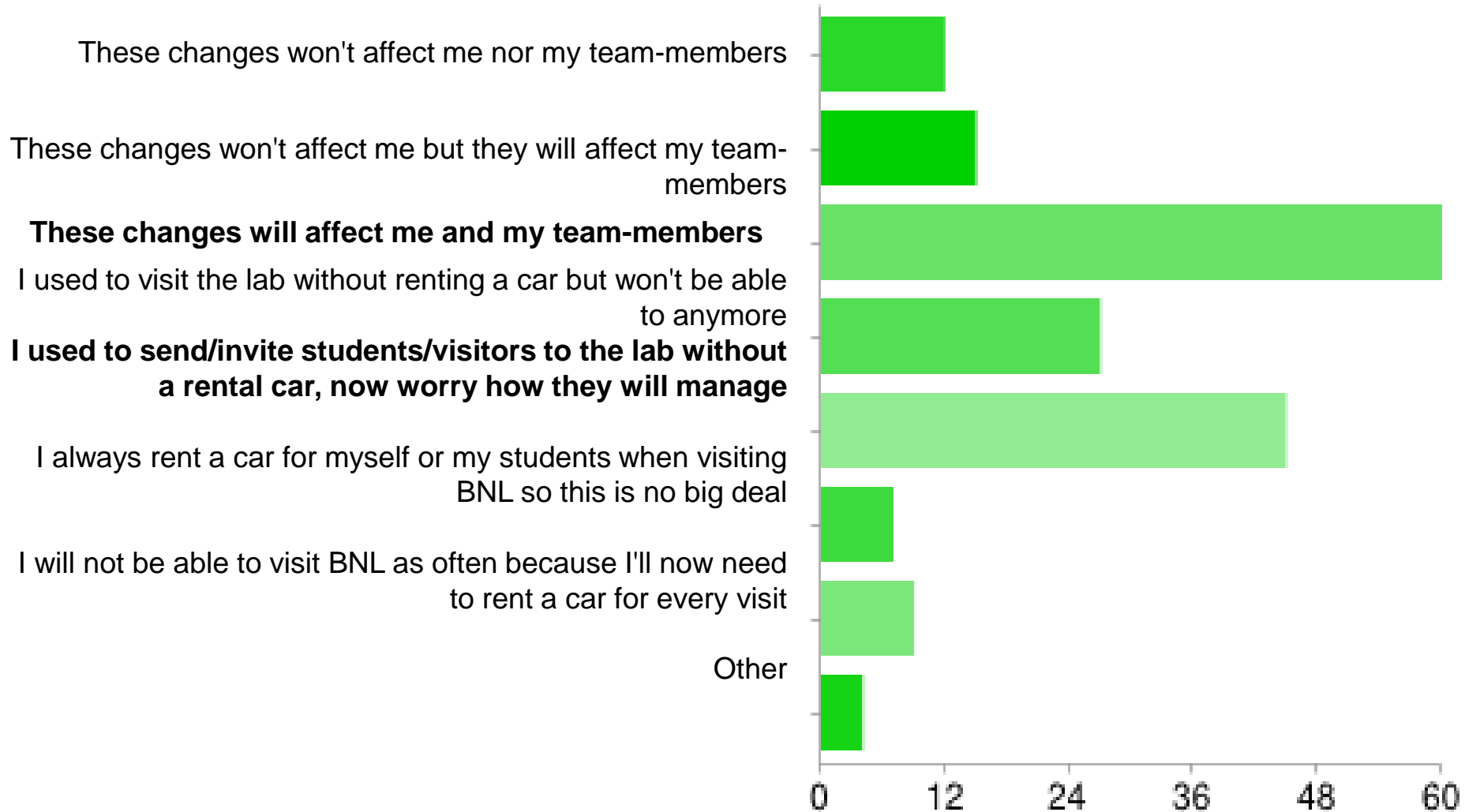
How frequently do you or your visitors use the evening food and drink service at the Brookhaven Center?



37%: At least once or more each visit
24%: Almost every visit
28%: Only occasionally
12%: Never

Results of Users Poll

Let us know how you will be affected by these changes:



Conclusions

The reaction from the RHIC user community to the (proposed) changes has been overwhelmingly negative. Some of the more prominent worries include

- Stranded students
- A degradation of quality of life
- The added expense of needing rental cars
- The loss of places to meet with colleagues
- The lack of apparent concern from management for making BNL attractive to users
- A general lack of a welcoming, supportive, and enjoyable working environment

This represents my brief attempt to absorb and process the outpouring of comments. We clearly will need to revisit this.

Comments

Not everything has to be "for profit"! Where are we -- in XIX. century England!!!! Not to mention the obvious fact that Science is not for profit either. What's the next step? Stop cleaning the offices and lavatories because that's not "for profit" either? Please send the Upper Management to CERN for a tour on how to run a scientific facility. And no, they won't need a rent-a-car. Many employees are working on weekends and late in the evenings and not always this long ours are planned in advance. Therefore a possibility something quick to eat without going offsite and drive 20-30 minutes till the next restaurant is extremely important for work efficiency. An other issue is the point of life quality at BNL, it should not be underestimated how much better the work atmosphere is if you know your colleagues also socially. Therefore to have a place for people to gather and talk about work in a relaxed atmosphere as during a dinner is crucial for a productive work environment. I lived on-site at BNL before there was weekend cafeteria service. My options for food were limited to delivery from the pizza place in Shirley and the vending machine in the old users center. Since I was under 25, my host institution would not allow me to rent a car due to the prohibitive cost, especially of the additional insurance rate. Quite frankly, my time there was miserable. Now, when we send students, at least there is the shuttle and weekend and evening food service options available. Removing these luxuries is short-sighted and risks alienating the junior students/postdocs, who are the very people we should be trying to impress since they are the future of the field... The kitchen's in the dorms are very poorly equipped. Also, other residents take very poor care of the kitchen space. I've visited other labs where the kitchens were well equipped and cared for to a very high degree by both management and residents. I would prefer to be able to do my own cooking more. Also, the times of the cafeteria do not work well. For instance, our morning shift starts at 7:30, and so one cannot get food at the cafeteria before the shift starts. This is not in the best interest of the visitors or the Laboratory. Overall quality of life is comfortable. There should be some type of beverage and snack machine available on the weekend if the Brookhaven Center closes. Maybe you can have movie nights on the week end in one of the buildings with an auditorium for visitors. Over the past 6 or so years, the price of food at the cafeteria has increased, while quality has not kept pace. For the money spent, I've felt my dollar has more value elsewhere, which means I frequently go off-site just to eat lunch, and so do my colleagues. Even more so when we have visitors. The gym needs more space, especially upstairs. Ideally, more space and more equipment. My understanding is that the cafeteria in Berkner hall is subsidized by the lab. This has always baffled me because the quality of the food is not very good and the prices are rather high. If it was subsidized by the lab, I would expect better quality. The staff are usually very unfriendly/unhelpful and often treat foreigners with disrespect. Comparing the guest services at BNL to other national labs leaves something to be desired to say the least. It is very off putting to many scientists and their collaborators to have to do science at Brookhaven lab. Just my opinion. The quality of life at BNL is only as good as you provide. Not everyone has a rental car available. Do you want to make the quality good or bad? If BNL wants to host first-rate user facilities it needs to be able to provide for visitors who don't have cars. Some kind of small grocery/convenience store, that was open nights&weekends would make staying at BNL a lot easier. Replace the dorms & efficiency apts. Love the burgers at the Brookhaven Center. In addition to the crucial importance of the food service for BNL guests Quality of accommodation is not very good. I would really prefer that all rooms would have bath and shower and be better noise isolated. There should be 24/7 shuttle to shifts. Being able to go the Brookhaven Center with my visitors is VERY important to me. When we have meetings and are working all day and need to keep working at night, the Brookhaven Center is the best place to adjourn for a dinner and a moment to relax and talk shop with my colleagues. Also, when I bring students to the lab, I like to give them a tour of the physics department, the RCF, and of RHIC and then take them to the Brookhaven Center to chat and have a beer. It gives them a VERY good impression of the lab. - Cafeteria provides food of poor quality and at an high price (in particular, given how bad the food is). - Nutrition information and healthy-aware eating styles are completely absent at the Cafeteria - On-site housing is terrible. Changing furniture does not mean to improve it! Bathrooms and kitchens in the apartments are obsolete and dirty. - Quality of service and food at the Brookhaven Center keeps deteriorating as well, and operation times are not respected - it is hard to get any warm food after 7, most of the times they'll just snap at you "kitchen's closed" -

Comments

These measures affect both employees and visitors, though visitors are hurt much worse. I can say from experience that living at BNL is already bad enough, especially for students, who often lack transport. If BNL is serious about quality of life on-site it should be seeking to improve services, not strip away what little remains. Otherwise coming here, either on a temporary or permanent basis, becomes increasingly difficult to recommend. I fairly often go to the BNL Center with visitors to the Lab to have dinner and a few beers. The vast majority of the time is spent discussing topics directly related to work. The atmosphere of a place like the center, where one can get out of the office, relax and spend time with colleagues is very valuable. The quality of life at BNL is very good. I like it. When hosting on-site receptions with staff provided by BSA, their manner are rude. As soon as people are halfway through their dessert, they already start taking plates away from the tables. Conference dinners are a crucial moment in a conference for more informal discussion and exchange of information. It is unacceptable that guests are almost thrown out (or make feel as they were) at the end of the dinner. - Guest house is overpriced. If now the weekend food service is discontinued, we'll completely stop using it and opt for off-site accommodation. - Cleaning service is poor. Most of the time, I found the janitors at the dorms watching TV in the lobby, while the kitchen remained unclean and invaded by ants. The eternal problem is that the Center is not a center. If you want a model of what works, you know what it is and it's spelled CERN. 1) Food is terrible. 2) Food is not available when one needs it. 3) I really suffer of extreme hunger at many times during the day and night, especially nights and weekends. I always have to make the choice between spending my time on commuting to a place to eat or continue working. 4) Internet at the dorms is not usable. I really don't understand how you expect us to work while at BNL with such internet. It is much faster to access computing facilities at BNL from overseas than from the dorms. So I am basically paralyzed while I am on site. It is ridiculous that the only place I cannot work done is while on site. 5) Why don't we have coffee at the dorms?!!!! In general the life at BNL is fine. We are not coming here for great life, we are coming for science. Having food service available every meal, every day of the week is essential during operation of a facility such as RHIC, and presumably also of the new light source. This is especially true for foreign guests and students, but also for US physicists who do not have time to drive long distances offsite for a meal. Similarly, the kitchen in the dorm where I stayed on my last trip was a disaster - few plates, glasses, silverware - a plugged drain and dirty dishes everywhere. Not super conducive to eating in the kitchen! I do not use the weekend nor evening (i.e. Center) food services at BNL frequently because they are not, in my opinion, quality cuisine offerings. I would much prefer to have improved food quality options at these hours, encouraging me to stay on campus, almost certainly making my colleagues and me more productive. But if the food quality is not improved, there is little impetus to convene at the current dining areas, driving me away from the campus and my collaborative colleagues. Suggestions for improving the food quality include a larger variety of cuisines, particularly low-calorie and low-fat options, particularly at the Center. - Dinners at Berkner Hall should be served on Weekends as well. Now I have to go shopping and cook on almost every Weekends. For someone without a car it is not most efficient solution. - Shuttle bus should course regularly between Apartments and (say) Berkner Hall or/and Departments (as a bus stops), ideally should take a course around most facilities. The statement of timetables for Shuttle bus will increase efficiency, e.g., 7:30, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, from guest houses to apartments, and then 15:00, 16:00, 17:00, 18:00 from Departments to Apartments. Of course if statistic would be small then some of the lines should be cancelled, but not all of them. In emergencies it should be also on demands as it is now. - Renting a car is a very useful and because of large distances at BNL it is necessity to have at least one for group. The food in cafeteria is over priced based on their quality and quantity. And the service personals are mostly not qualified for this job. Having on-site meals is critical for those long nights working at the lab. Getting a beer after work and discussing ideas with colleagues would be sorely missed. As a compromise one can consider canceling weekend food service at Berkner Hall and adding more food options at the Brookhaven Center. Colleagues and students without drivers licence will not be able to visit Brookhave with out escort by a driver . Even with a car, the possibility to have breakfast at Berkner after a night shift is highly valued. To drive off site for that will take 1-2 additional hours before one can go to bed after a night shift. If you have bus service to the neighboring area, the food service would not be a big deal. I understand that there may be budget cuts, but there needs to be some reasonably accessible food service to visitors on site, other than vending machines.

Comments

The QOL on site is pretty poor to start, taking this away would be unfathomable. During most trips to BNL, I prefer to stay on-site in the dorms, and then eat breakfast at the cafeteria every day. I eat lunch there about half the time, both during the week and on weekends. So during a typical weekend, I would eat 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch at Berkner. The same is true for my students, though they frequently skip breakfast completely. I personally don't go to the Center too often, but my students go more often, primarily for a couple of drinks. The RHIC community as well as the soon to be operational Light Source are geared to a USER community. When these facilities are running they operate 24-7, this includes weekends and evenings. If Universities provide students to work on experiments at these facilities they will be looking at facilities for food on site, since most will not be provided with a rental car. If, as you say, the usage on the weekend is barely adequate to cover costs - even with RHIC operating than my guess is your decision to close is the appropriate choice. Keep the center open on Friday nights only and for special events. The lack of food services on weekends or the BNL center is very damaging for our visitors who are often from abroad. We cannot rent a car for all visitors. Some of them do not have the proper driver's license or insurance. Either we have to drive them around on weekends or they have to go hungry. The quality of life at BNL is terrible. Users have many options nationally and internationally these days and will take it elsewhere. The lab administration is clueless about the needs of the users and scientists at the laboratory, the group, they, with their inflated salaries purport to serve. Life at BNL is very unattractive, both housing and food services. This sheds a terrible sign on BNL and DOE on how the user community is treated! If BNL management indeed terminates evening and weekend food services at the Brookhaven Center, I suggest the following two low-overhead solutions: 1) A limited amount of pre-cooked platters and sandwiches (as found at certain airport lounges), perhaps from vending machines or with limited staff on-site (ie, cashier only). That eliminates most labor costs (ie, no need for kitchen service). 2) Contract with food trucks (such as those found at the Ronkonkoma LIRR station or near certain LIE exits). The trucks can be parked near the Brookhaven Center for a certain number of hours on weekday evenings and weekends. Assuming there's enough business to justify the presence of the trucks, this option should also be cost-effective for the Lab. In addition to visitors, the center is important for our group here at BNL. We have weekly scheduled dinner and drinks for our group at the center. We also often go there after work to wind down in an unscheduled fashion. The cafeteria and the Brookhaven center are important places of the Lab life, especially for non US people. Reduce/close their activities will decrease a lot the quality of life of this Lab. Student friendliness factor does seem to be going down dorm closings getting food and so on. Some students decline to make visits onsite for extended periods of time. Student opinions range from "it's not so bad" to "some sort of prison camp gulag in the middle of the woods". Comparing to FERMI LAB food does seem better there. The Brookhaven Center is a good place to meet and not waste time driving to a far off place. We have lots of physics discussions there. Closing the food service will make working at BNL miserable for lots of people. We have so many students. Should they only eat breakfast and lunch. If you live in the dorms cooking is too hard and where can you buy groceries. Onsite housing is already atrocious, even with food available. The water out of the faucet is brown, there is no AC in the summer, the rooms and apartments feel like they haven't changed a bit since the 60s. It also seems cruel to make it almost impossible for guests to bring other visitors onsite. It is certainly isolating if you are stationed here for any period of time as a non-BNL employee and can't easily have a friend over for dinner or show off your exciting experiment after work. If I were a younger person looking to start a career, I certainly wouldn't want to work at BNL unless it was my only option. The quality of life at BNL is in no way competitive to other labs or jobs in the private sector. Discontinuing onsite food service is just one more step down. What quality of life? Did not notice there was any quality to it. All services are being suppressed. - We would have benefited from maintaining on-site housing - We would need better food service not worst or more expansive ones - Young scientists need affordable child services, not inflated cost by a x2 for a service which is not even close to be competitive to those one can get outside the lab. Many of our visitors do not have rental cars and are at the lab over weekends. If it is an issue of cost, then raise the cost of food on weekends. This is an absolutely awful proposal to do for visitors: Place them on site, sometime just arriving at the lab, without a car and with no food service.

Comments

I would be very interested to understand what type of business model the lab follows. It cannot be one most modern successful companies follow, because they make any effort to increase quality of life at the work place. This point was just emphasized by the APS committee which came to the lab investigating the situation for females at BNL. It would be also interesting to understand the financial impacts running the center and the cafeteria on the weekend has on the budget of the lab. You should work to expand the services for users, because it is very important for doing research at BNL. Students from my group are not permitted to drive a car during their stay in BNL due to internal rules of my institution and for them it will be very hard to get alone in BNL now. It seems like BNL doesn't understand that they need to attract users to remain a viable and vibrant scientific institution. If no one wants to come here to do science, then the science suffers and eventually the DOE will decide to stop funding us. Improvement in the quality of life at the lab is an essential component of keeping the lab competitive. Try thinking of your users as the customers you want to attract. Who was queried for the decision process? The cost of food at Berkner, let alone the quality, has been an embarrassment for quite some time. Instead of considering cutting service days to save cost, please reconsider the entire strategy of the service provided. I'd much rather stay on-site for lunch and be more productive, than feel obliged to leave the site to find a decent meal at a competitive price. Thanks for the information. I can safely take visitors to the center for a beer and am sure they do not drive afterwards- Recycling should be more encouraged, and efforts should be made towards promoting a recycling culture. This might even enter the compulsory training (people throw foam cups in the paper recycling bin!) - Use of train should be encouraged. Having a more regular shuttle bus to/from Ronkonkoma would help - one or two cars run by BSA for guest pick-up, and paid by the Lab groups requesting them, but, say, at half price compared to external providers, would help saving a lot of money. Instead of closure food service really needs an upgrade! Specially for people who are vegetarian there are not much options available to eat and dormitory kitchens (specially in Curie house) are in very bad shape. It would be better if laboratory management changes that. The lab management currently seems to espouse a philosophy that services on site are to be valued only by their operating profit margin. I disagree. I think it has not been considered that Workshops, reviews and other meetings take place on Saturday and Sunday at BNL. Without Breakfast or Lunch service on site all participants will be driving 10 miles round trip to get to the closest fast food places. The distance to restaurants serving anything other than fast food is even further. Does this mean no more Saturday workshops, conferences, meetings or reviews at BNL? I am sure that shift workers who operate the BNL facilities that run 7 days a week will also find this very inconvenient. I think it's important that we make an effort to make the experience of our Facility users as pleasant and productive as we can. Many of them can choose to go elsewhere, and we make BNL a difficult or unpleasant place to work, at a minimum the reputation of the Lab will sink, at worst the Facility users will choose to work elsewhere. Providing an environment where Users want to visit is a cost of doing business for a National User Facility Laboratory like BNL. Cutting back on services that negatively impact our users should be the last item cut, even if it means making painful cuts elsewhere. The lab management should think when they go to another to work what they want to be treated. It should be fine if they can treat visitors the way they want to be treated. On some evenings there are so many meetings until late in the evening, that the only place we have time to grab dinner is the Center. At other times, work at the experiment is so intense that we again have little time to grab dinner, and the Center is the only practical place to go. Having no food available on weekends makes it impossible for BNL to host week long conferences. People arriving on Sunday's will not be able to get food. I am glad to hear that the Lab management is working "to secure a new food services contract that provides high quality food service", which I think Nanyarsons has continually failed to provide.

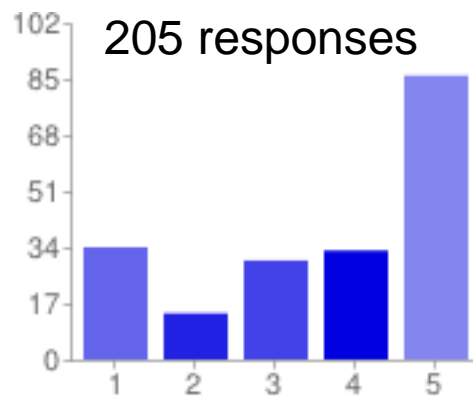
Comments

Stop using 20th century principles for 21st century realities. If the lab management has not intent to provide the courtesy of an advance notice to the community (or ask for opinions), at minimum, please provide a decent cost benefit evaluation not a blind "not cost effective" statement when services are suppressed. This is insulting at best. Real 21st century business factor in cost items such as their employee's happiness and their time spent at work trying to keep them happy on site so they do not run-away from it, the extra time the employees spend at work because they were not out to eat but spending quality time with co-workers around a fine meal discussing work or collaborative ideas (showed to be significantly more important and cost effective than paying the extra staff) ... and so on. Same for child-service, sports and other social services. Perhaps our management should recycle themselves by learning Google-like principles? Or even better, perhaps we should replace our obsolete thinking and retrograde management by fresh blood and those who actually know how to apply 21st century management principles? Surely it can be understood that falling "customer demand" may be due to the inability to find a quality produce, not simply a disinterest in existence of a product. Change food service management and re-organize the food service in cafeteria. I think that the proposed measure to close weekend food service is a critical error by lab management and will be a big detriment to the science output of the lab. No longer will visitors be able to come without transport, meaning that each trip becomes more expensive and less trips to BNL to do the important science we want to be able to do. Please use my input in your decision making processes. How much can the center possibly cost to run? It is one of the ONLY nice parts of our facilities here that could be considered a perk of working here. Most everything else (cafeteria included) is dilapidated and depressing. Without visitors this laboratory loses its primary mission. Please come up with creative ways to pay for these services. The lab administration should be ashamed of themselves. Lanny Bates and management colleagues should spend every weekend for a month on site to see what an abysmal quality of life is experienced by visitors to the lab. In general, the lab administration is clueless about the needs of the scientists at the lab and the visitors who we serve. If having students here is a priority the lab has to be made friendlier to them. We are competing with CERN LHC and others to entice collaborations, which means getting students here. If we look like a dingy closing down lab, we are sending out the wrong message. Items like the gym should be open on weekends. When I go for a shift, I need exercise. The gym is an ideal place. I would also like to borrow a bike for a few hours so I can bike around the laboratory and get some exercise. I only need it for a few hours. It is not healthy just to sit and be idle. Brookhaven center was overflowing with customers when it was managed by AUI up until 1998 or 99 when BSA took over management of the lab.

Backup

Poll Results as of 4 pm Thursday

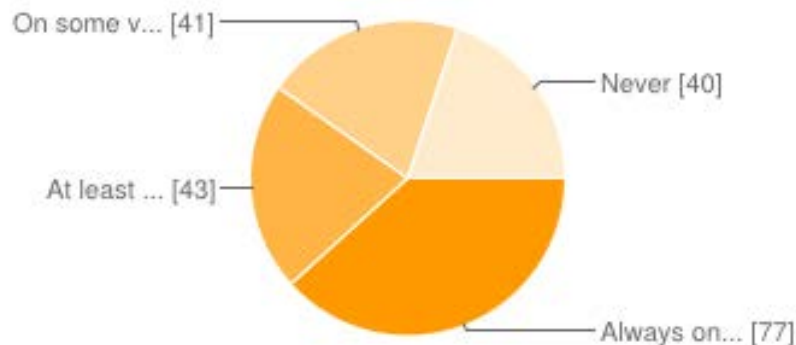
How important is weekend food service at the cafeteria in Berkner hall when you visit BNL or host visitors at BNL?



From (1) not at all important to (5) it's crucial

- 1) 17%
- 2) 8%
- 3) 15%
- 4) 17%
- 5) 44%

How frequently do you or your visitors use weekend food service when at BNL?



38%: Always on visits

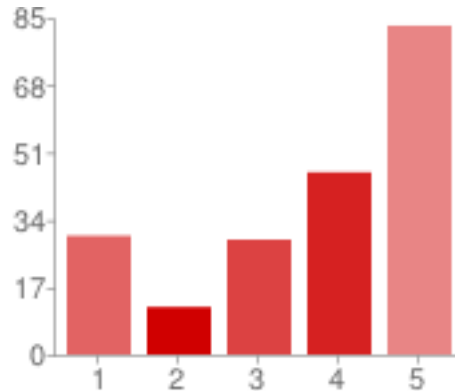
21%: At least once each visit

20%: On some visits but not always

20%: Never

Results of Users Poll

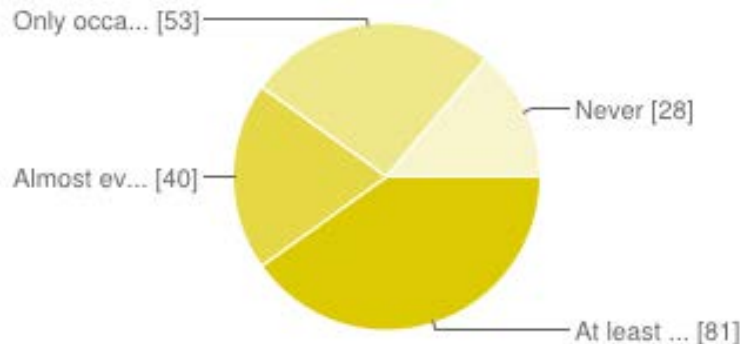
How important is the evening food and drink service at the Brookhaven Center when you visit or have visitors at BNL?



From (1) not at all important to (5) it's crucial

- 1) 15%
- 2) 6%
- 3) 14%
- 4) 23%
- 5) 42%

How frequently do you or your visitors use the evening food and drink service at the Brookhaven Center?



- 40%: At least once or more each visit
- 20%: Almost every visit
- 26%: Only occasionally
- 14%: Never

Results of Users Poll

Let us know how you will be affected by these changes:

