

SURF User Association Executive Committee Meeting

Date: 06/17/2026

Attending:

Members: Stephen Kilber, Frank Strieder, Brianna Mount, Oxana Gorbatenko, Mark Hanhardt, Sarah Keenan,

Others: Christopher Kreitzinger, Stacie Granum, Jaret Heise (portion)

Quorum: Yes (7 members present, 5 members required for quorum)

Start Time: 11:03 PM MT

Welcome

- Frank: Welcomes new members.

(11:04 AM MT)

Introduction

- Frank: Working at SURF on the CASPAR project. Have worked before on the LUNA project at Gran Sasso.
- Mark: Current secretary of SURF User Association Executive Committee and involved on the CASPAR project. Working on PhD.
- Oxana: Works at BHSU representing biology. Participated in multiple projects at SURF over ten years.
- Sarah: Associate professor at SDSMT in geology. Work at SURF dependent on funding but will be back underground soon to look at the geochemistry.
- Stephen: First meeting here. Practicing structural engineer. Have done various projects at the Ross and Yates complex over ten years and starting a 5-year project with Fermilab as well.
- Brianna: Professor of physics at BHSU. Run the BHUC at SURF since it started. Also, a member of the LZ collaboration.
- Julia: Representing LZ for four years. Prior to this worked in pharmaceutical and engineering fields.
- Stacie: With the Institute at SURF and am looking for synergies between the Institute and the UAEC.
- Christopher: Science Support Associate at SURF for the last 2 years.

(11:11 AM)

Election of Chair and Secretary

- Frank: Anybody interested in taking the chair position? Happy to continue if nobody else is interested.
 - Frank accepts position based on unanimous vote.
 - Mark to continue as secretary.

(11:14/11:37 AM MT)

Lab Update

- Jaret: General
 - Recall strong congressional support that resulted in \$44M FY26 appropriation for SURF (\$6M above Cooperative Agreement baseline), which allowed planning to begin for Yates hoists upgrades – critical infrastructure project. SDSTA working with an architecture and engineering firm to develop Phase1 (electrical) design/build RFP, expected to go out before Oct 1. Phase 1+2 (mechanical) requires DOE infrastructure funding, profile proposed through FY30 (~\$30M total). Yates Shaft rehabilitation would be another ~3 years (start TBD).
 - Other infrastructure priorities for next several years essentially limited to pumprooms and electrical infrastructure. Near-term: 1250L pumproom, electrical distribution (UG + Yates Complex). Acknowledge some unfortunate issues with planning for the 4850L Ross Campus power outage associated with the 1250L pumproom project.
 - SURF representatives (Mount, Heise) joined annual HEP user advocacy trip for first time in March 2026, interacted with combined 27 congressional offices + the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and other connections like Universities Research Alliance (URA) during 2.5 days in Washington, DC. Great experience! SDSTA expects annual support to continue.
 - Getting ready for Neutrino Day in July (2300 ppl last year!)

SURF Lab Space

- SURF write-up for *Annual Reviews of Nuclear and Particle Science* planned for publication in Sep 2026; preprint posted:

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2603.06504>. Mentions available 1700L CAT space, as well as proposed Quantum User Facility at 4850L Davis Campus (hoping for near-term funding) and Yates Shaft Vertical Facility (~2030s).

- i. Heise currently attending Radiation Impacts on Superconducting Qubits (RISQ) workshop
- Continuing to engage community regarding next-generation experiments at SURF (e.g., XLZD, future neutrino detector).
- SURF presence at 60th ARMA U.S. Rock Mechanics Symposium in June (first time); also planning to attend American Geophysical Union (AGU) conference in Dec (3rd time).

LBNF/DUNE

- SD Mines and SDSTA successfully co-hosted the DUNE collaboration May 18-22, with 241 onsite attendees participating in meetings and events in Rapid City and Lead, incl public outreach talks and beam signing event. UG tours at SURF accommodated total of 144 collaborators. Member of Executive Committee (Delgaudio) participated in discussions with DUNE collaboration re: living and working in South Dakota (thanks!). Expect SD collaboration meeting for next several years (decision for 2027 May meeting expected in late July, planning to host in Deadwood + Lead).
- DUNE cryostat beam transport to 4850L underway. Each cryostat consists of 340 large beams (+ connectors, membranes). Aim to stage 30% of steel beams underground before contractor starts assembly (~late Summer to Fall 2026); completion of the first cryostat steel structure assembly expected Summer 2027.
- Safety pause currently underway for portion of LBNF activities to review working planning and controls.
- FNAL South Dakota Services ramping up onsite logistical support for DUNE collaborators coming to SURF (housing, office space, shuttles).

Institute

- 10th anniversary CETUP* workshop June 22-July 17 focused on dark matter, neutrino topics + intersection with quantum, AI. Users welcome to join various associated outreach events:
 - i. **Pub Talks & Trivia @ Dakota Shivers Brewing** (Lead)
Every Thursday | 5:30–7:30 p.m.
 - ii. **CETUP* Public Talks**
Tuesday, June 30 | 6:00-7:00 p.m. (BHSU)

Tuesday, July 14 | 6:00-7:00 p.m. (SDSMT) - tentative

- Relaunched Deeper Talks series as “John Bahcall Colloquium” in March, great talks continue monthly (incl KC Kong’s quantum talk in Jun); consider registering for the series
- Quantum Partnership Workshop in Jul 22-24
- Institute Science Planning Committee (ISPC) holding regular meetings to inform Institute strategic plan (5th meeting was today)
- Frank: Any expected Ross campus interruptions coming up?
- Jaret: Not foreseeing any disruptions.
- Brianna: Trip to DC was great with a bunch of beneficial talks. Something that should be done every year.
- Jaret: Have met some resistance with the safety perception survey. Whatever is developed should meet the needs of the UA.
- Frank: Will send a message to the committee (message was sent June 18). Please provide any feedback.

(11:14 AM MT)

Interaction of SUA and The Institute

- Stacie: Shares screen providing an introduction to the Institute.
 - Creates programming to support educators, researchers and students. Fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. Resources for scientific communities, support for early career scientists, connect underground science communities, support for development of future experiments.
 - Hosts conferences, workshops, monthly colloquium series. Looking at hiring a director and figuring out how to continue moving the Institute forward. For more information, please refer to the website: <https://institute.surf/>
- Julia: Do you have a timeline for the resource hub?
- Stacie: Was hoping for June but will likely be later this fall.
- Julia: Have discussed with Brianna about providing materials to new researchers, so am interested to see what kind of overlap there might be.
- Stacie: Have discussed a local ambassador, which is a role the UA is supposed to fill, so there is a lot of overlap in this regard.
- Frank: One has to be careful not to create the same resource twice.
- Mark: Stacie and I have discussed this as well, and there is a subcommittee here that works on this. They are developing a UA website that would provide a lot of this

information. Have considered inviting Stacie once a month to make sure there is no duplication of efforts.

- Stacie: That's correct and then we can also let the UA know of many different opportunities like the John Bahcall Colloquium.
- Frank: Agrees that an introduction to regular programming is a good thing, not just for things like CETUP*. How do you involve other disciplines?
- Stacie: Looking at implementing other programs too. Like the Higher Education Connections Workshop, which brings together educators from different disciplines. We are also looking at a fellowship program that could be multidisciplinary.
- Frank: What are the plans for involving students beyond the Davis-Bahcall Scholars Program?
- Stacie: Would like to have a summer program for students. Maybe a 2-week program, but this would be further down the line. Talking about adding a student component to CETUP* where they can join part of CETUP* and participate.
- Frank: A student focused program would be a great direction. Something like this that stands alone outside of programs that already exist.
- Stacie: Agrees that a summer workshop for students would be beneficial.

(11:45 AM)

Sub-committee progress and future

- Mark: Subcommittee purpose is to understand the problem behind low engagement and our main goal is to come up with four main services that can be provided. The subcommittee has been meeting every other week concerning building a new website (which has been sent to the comms department but will take some time to develop), along with a quarterly email update consisting of relevant information, also working on an article that can be included in the Deep Thoughts article that could be added once a quarter, and lastly have worked on interviews with visiting users to better understand their experience and how we can improve. Might be a good idea to include Julia and Stephen in one of the subcommittee meetings to see if they are interested in participating to some extent. Briefly discussed a UA logo and have worked on a few that can be voted on by the EC.
- Julia: Is the plan to have it linked from the main SURF webpage?
- Mark: Once they build it, we should have control over it and can add/edit pages and links. Goal is to be somewhat separate but will likely be on the same domain.
- Julia: Is it meant to be a public website?

- Mark: Yes. If we can send out a poll on the logo options, it might be worth getting that on there. Do Thursdays at 11:00AM work for everyone here? Let's plan for July 2 at 11:00AM.

Action Items Resulting from Discussions

- N/A

Meeting End: 11:58 AM MT