

Outgoing Chair's report for the Council 2017-2018

Summary of Council Activities for the 2017-8 year

- a. Tenure cases (4) were reviewed and the promotions approved by the Council. All were subsequently approved by the Trustees. Meetings of a committee to review the scientific appointment and tenure structure at BNL have not so far led to any proposals.
- b. Council representatives served on the LDRD proposal review board last summer, on the Goldhaber Fellows appointment committee, and several other standing committees, for which I thank everyone involved.
- c. On a less positive note, we have had a larger than normal number of layoffs and early retirements for reasons of financial exigency this year, and Council members have had the unenviable task of reviewing these cases. The difficult financial climate at BNL seems likely to continue in the coming year and we will undoubtedly be facing more of these situations. Council representatives have served on Lab-wide committees to discuss options and definitions for phased retirement and emeritus positions for scientific staff. These deliberations are ongoing and will continue into the new Council's term.
- d. Other consequences of reduced financial circumstances have been the loss of amenities and benefits such as the closing of the Brookhaven Center, the loss of the Child Care facility and the closing of the on-site gas/service station. The hope is that the new development plans for the front gate and apartment area, Discovery Park, will permit at least some of these services to be restored. Initial construction is slated to begin this year.
- e. We now have a Council representative on the Science Council, which should help the Council to get more timely warnings of proposed changes to policies that affect scientific staff.