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MINOS Co-spokesperson elections 2009.

I am honored to be nominated for MINOS co-spokesman. I have decided to stand for election and am providing some of my thoughts below. Stan's leadership of MINOS over the entire lifetime of the experiment so far has been instrumental in getting us as far as we are. Thank you, Stan! Trying to fill your shoes will be a challenge for anyone.

Our latest and future results and running will make crucial impact on the ultimate legacy of the experiment. We must exploit our detectors and beam strengths as a premier operating neutrino experiment. What we do over the next 2-3 years will critically affect how MINOS will be judged in the annals of neutrino physics.

Our success is not guaranteed and we must remain vigilant on all fronts:

1) We must constantly remind the lab's management and the funding agencies about our goals and our needs to accomplish these goals. We continue being vulnerable to insufficient manpower and inadequate support for spares and general operating. We should strive to empower our Fermilab colleagues, both in the accelerator division and neutrino department, by arguing for their support with the lab Directorate so that they can accomplish what MINOS expects them to achieve and so the lab can also work on a long-term plans. A successful MINOS program will strongly project on future of the neutrino program at Fermilab.

2) Our recent electron appearance "anomaly" and anti-neutrinos disappearance "deficit" are attracting world-wide attention. We have to proceed very carefully and thoughtfully to optimize analyses of yet-closed data sets and to maximize the impact of the remaining data collection. Both topics may hold surprises. Our competition is not slowing down (significantly) so we must press-on!

3) We have to be proactive in arguing with our funding agencies to maintain and improve funding of MINOS groups, some of which have significant and growing stakes in the neutrino program at Fermilab. This includes our largest group, the UK colleagues, who face serious difficulties to maintain their level of support. I would argue to increase contacts with STFC and ask the lab management to vigorously participate in making arrangements allowing us

to end the experiment on our, the MINOS Collaboration, terms.

As part of this support, we should advocate increasing, or at least maintaining, the support for MINOS visitors and travel funds so, for example, the shifts-taking would not be infringed by lower than necessary support at some collaborating institutions.

4) MINOS is working now like a well-oiled machine but some inner-workings may be improved. Just to give some examples: a) we could improve the paper approval and editing process, b) the MINOS public web-site could be modernized and made more informational and educational, c) the headquarters at Fermilab may be more space-friendly (e.g., compare with miniBooNE), d) more communication among analysis groups is always desirable and we should explore some new ways.

5) Although my applications to become a member of Young MINOS have been denied, I feel strongly that we must continue supporting our young collaborators. We have had a good track record but should always remember that MINOS is a direct product of their hard work and dedication. Their effort must be recognized and rewarded.

I pledge my full commitment to MINOS. My personal and professional situation would allow me to spend a significant portion of time at Fermilab to help our cause. I believe I can compliment and work effectively with Rob to address arising challenges ahead of us. I have dedicated to MINOS the last 14+ years of my research and am passionate to see it succeed. Over the years, I have served the experiment in many ways and will continue to work in whatever role the Collaboration chooses.