Jenny Thomas : Statement

MINOS is moving into the final stages of its lifetime, and again the challenges and opportunities we face at this time are different from previous epochs. Our main goal is to make sure that MINOS measurements are remembered and referenced for a long time to come. Our main challenge is to keep the largely new group of young people focussed on the analysis tasks at hand in order to get the publications out while at the same time encouraging everyone to continue to play their role in service tasks to keep the experiment going. However, our fantastic opportunity is to be in a position to provide results on the main questions in the field in time for Neutrino 2010. These would be the improved world's best measurement of the neutrino mixing parameter Dm2, the worlds best limit on theta13, a competitive measurement of the anti-neutrino mixing parameter Dm2bar as well as some of the best measurements of the neutrino cross-section in our energy range. Beyond that, we are in a very enviable position of having to decide whether to focus on the world's best antineutrino oscillation measurement, or whether to make the first measurement of theta13.

The first thing I would do as spokesperson would be to convene a group to look at ways in which our analysis procedure could be streamlined: moving into an era when we actually have competition, we have to be able to open boxes more efficiently so that we are not disadvantaged compared to the competition who may or may not decide that the only way forward is a blind analysis. I would also pose the question to the analysis groups ofhow they can use the antineutrino running: can it be used to study systematic errors in the CC measurement? Can they be used in the nue analysis?

We will start running with anti-neutrinos in this run period until the nue group opens the box on 7e20 p.o.t. At the same time, the numubar group will also open the box on 7e20. Deciding which path to take after that may be a very major challenge for the collaboration because there will possibly be competing views. I will endeavour to make sure we reach a consensus but above all I want it to be the MINOS collaboration who decides upon our proposed running thereafter and not the FNAL directorate. If we continue to run with antineutrinos, there will be some difficult negotiations with Minerva but this is the usual way when others share the beam and I feel confident I can represent MINOS in these discussions with sensitivity.

There will always be the issue of proton intensity. I think we should never stop pushing for higher p.o.t. With sustained effort, the future run period could break all records building on all the innovative improvements that have been achieved to date. The directorate have become increasingly interested in what MINOS is doing in light of the small nue excess: let's take advantage of that to try to ensure adequate resources for the beam team.

In the position of co-spokesperson I would also devote time and effort to attempting to attract new funds for the UK groups who are presently facing a very difficult time. There are several different sources which are available, and having a very visible role of leadership will only help this to succeed.

Personally, if I were to be successful, I would resign my administrative responsibilities giving me a full time commitment to MINOS and I was very happy to

find out that my family is wildly enthusiastic about spending a year in the US! This would be a top priority for me in order to be effective at FNAL.

Finally, I am very honoured to have been nominated, and would be very honoured to take this position of leadership for the collaboration.