Feedback was submitted to the Unicode Consortium reporting that the glyphs in the Phaistos Disc block may be incorrect, specifically:

- The glyphs of the faces should be facing to the right, instead of to the left, as currently appears in the code charts.
- U+101EB BULLS LEG is upside down.

After checking with experts, comparing fonts for Phaistos Disc, and examining texts that discuss Phaistos Disc, the evidence supports the claim that the glyphs should have the faces reversed, that is, they should face right. Appendix C has a chart showing the direction of the glyphs, which can be used as a guide.1

The evidence on the orientation of U+101EB BULLS LEG is less clear; see comments in section II.

I. Direction of Faces

1. Fonts

Glyphs from four fonts were included in proposal N3066: Everson Mono Phaistos, Code 2000, Phaistos (Stratos Doumanis and Apostolos Syropoulos), and a Phaistos font by Deniart. Although the glyphs from these fonts are shown in the proposal as left-facing, only Everson Mono Phaistos was designed as left-facing; all the others are right facing:

Code 2001 (Code 2000 does not have Phaistos Disc symbols):

1 All glyphs should be flipped except for: 101D6 P.D. HELMET, 101D9 P.D. ARROW, 101DB P.D. SHIELD, 101DC P.D. CLUB, 101E5 SLING, 101E6 P.D. COLUMN, 101E7 P.D. BEEHIVE (note added bar on bottom, which is found on many other sources), 101EA P.D. HIDE, (see II below for 101EB BULLS LEG), 101F1 P.D. BEE, 101F3 P.D. VINE, 101F4 P.D. PAPYRUS, 101F5 P.D. ROSETTE, 101F6 P.D. LILY, 101F7 P.D. OX BACK, and 101FA P.D. STRAINER.
2. Text samples

All the samples in proposal itself (N3066) were right-facing except for figure 4 (with no attribution) and figure 9, which uses the Everson Mono Phaistos font. (Note: L2/97-106, an early proposal for the Phaistos disc symbols written by John Jenkins in 1997, also had the faces turned to the right.)

After checking through resources available to this author, all 26 reference works containing a chart or discussion of the individual signs (see Appendix A) had the faces turned to the right, with one exception. In an article by Torsten Timm from 2004 ("Der Diskos von Phaistos - Anmerkungen zur Deutung und Textstruktur," *Indogermanische Forschungen* 109: 204–231), the table at the end of the article (p. 231) had the faces turned to the right, but the smaller tables in the article, which had short groupings of characters, reversed the direction to face left. However, in a book by the same author in 2005, the groups of characters are all facing to the right (*Der Diskos von Phaistos: Fremdeinfluss oder kretisches Erbe?* Norderstedt, 2005).
A number of reference works on the Phaistos Disk had no samples of the individual signs, so it was not possible to check the orientation of the faces. (A list of these is in Appendix B.)

3. Expert Opinions re: direction of faces

I contacted two specialists asking their opinions on the direction of the faces. Both agreed that the direction of faces should be reversed, so they face the right.

a. Jean-Pierre Olivier

Dear Debbie Anderson,

As you know, from Stefani and Evans onwards, all the recognizable glyphs were generally drawn looking to the right, as printed on the disk itself (whatsoever the direction of the script: parallels with other scripts where the glyphs are looking to the beginning of the line seem to me irrelevant since the Phaistos disk is unique). Unless you consider the disk as a matrix (what it possible but rather hypothetical) it would be safer to draw them the same way in a font (it's what I did in mine).

b. Yves Duhoux

Le 8 févr. 2011 à 18:31, dwanders@berkeley.edu a écrit :
> Dear Prof. Duhoux,
> A question has arisen regarding
> the direction the faces of the glyphs in the Phaistos Disc.
> Currently, the faces in the characters are facing to the left, see the
> images on page 2 of: http://www.unicode.org/charts/PDF/U101D0.pdf
> Is this the most common direction that scholars would expect? Or would
> they be facing to the right?

There is no possibility to theoretically answer this question in the case of an undeciphered script written in a text of only 242 signs. Every direction is theoretically possible. In fact, the direction
of the signs depends on the direction of the script, and it goes from the exterior to the centre of the disk. The conclusion is that you should invert the direction of your table.

II. Direction of the bull’s leg sign
Many of the works checked had the bull’s leg upside-down (Timm, Best and Woudhuizen, for ex.), and some had it right-side up (Godart, Fischer), which is the current direction in charts.

If one decides the representative glyph of the symbols should be as they appear on the disk, with the faces to the right, then the hoof would be upside-down, and the glyph should be changed.

Below are the two examples from the disk (from J.-P. Olivier, “Le disque de Phaistos,” Bulletin de Correspondence Hellénique 99 [1975] 1, pp. 12, 14).

Note, however, J.-P. Olivier turned the bull’s leg to the more “normal” direction in his listing of the individual signs (p. 29):

In Code 2001, the bull’s leg is upside-down; in the font by Doumanis and Syropoulos and Everson, it is right-side up. The Phaistos disc font by Deniart has both orientations.

It appears that several authors “rectified” the direction of the bull’s leg, as well as other signs (such as making the fish and boat horizontal, see figs. 6 and 7 in N3066).

If the direction of the representative glyphs is to match that on the Phaistos Disc (reading outside in), then the hoof should be flipped (that is, so it is upside-down). However, the direction of the bull’s leg in text materials is often cited with the glyph as it appears currently in the charts (right-side up).

Whatever decision is made, the character should be annotated noting that the glyph can appear in a flipped orientation.
Appendix A: Text materials with individual glyphs
(Note: * see bracketed comments)

25. *Timm, Torsten. 2004. Der Diskos von Phaistos: Anmerkungen zur Deutung und Textstruktur. Indogermanische Forschungen 109: 204-231. [a chart of all the characters on p. 231 has faces turned to the right, but in other figures, short groups of symbols are shown with the faces turned to the left]
Appendix B: References with no images of individual glyphs

The above glyphs can be used as a rough gauge on the direction of the glyphs, except for the boat, which goes as follows (from Olivier 1975, p. 21):