2022-07-29: LCLS User's Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: E. Biasin, Y. Cao, G. Doumy, J. Kern, M. Khalil, A. Marinelli, M. Mitrano, B. Ofori-Okai, D. Rolles, R. Sension, P. Sun, M. Trigo, G. J. Williams, G. George, L. Conradson, C. Knotts, P. Jones, M. Dunne

Absent: T. Gorkhover, N. Hartley, E. McBride, D. Oberthur, C. Rajendran

Guest: Dava Keavney

Discussion with Dava Keavney

Introductions of members to Dava

- DOE Light sources program manager
- Background as a scientist, working at ANL/APS, then in the state department, and then the advanced manufacturing office at DOE
- Interested in improving visibility of user facilities within and outside government

Question: You are organizing a series of webinars to showcase the science at X-ray facilities. Are there specific audience that are targeted and any strategies in place for reaching out to them?

- Policy makers and other parts of US government that may or may not have scientific backgrounds, even within other parts of the DOE
- PIs/professors/lead scientists who have little familiarity with the process of getting access the facilities to widen the diversity of who is in the community

Ideas for improving the demographics of the PRP and improving engagement with the user community

- Have UEC members submit names for PRP or also encourage early career scientists
- Having beamline scientists involved in reaching and growing and educating the community
    - May be further stretching the responsibilities and expectations for the beamline scientists to have them also involved in educating scientists
- Especially for new users, there is a huge barrier to entry just due to lack of familiarity with the capabilities of the facility

For LCLS, there are many key differences between more-established synchrotron facilities

- Less of a one-to-one correlation between the beamline scientists and the instruments of the facility. Beamline scientists are organized by scientific area of interest, not specific instrument/endstation.
- The UEC can be more of an active tool for engagement.
- Need to have a strong partnership between beamline scientists and the UEC in order to extend the reach to different members of the community
- Other key issue just helping users understand how to handle the data especially with the upgrades

Question/Comment: Any thoughts on how to help educate younger scientists (students/postdocs)

- Opportunities exist at other light sources for training on the techniques and the physics that are accessible though light sources (e.g. X-ray school at other facilities)
- Working on training for data is an ongoing challenge across the light sources
- All of these are on the BES and DOE radar

Question/Comment: Training physics not only doing experimental science but also in data science can help in workforce development

- This is important because beamline science and data science are different
- Also not every trained student remains in physics/research
- There are increasing opportunities for developing user portals
- LCLS has a data analysis workshop for the User Meeting and the Ultrafast X-ray summer school

Update on User Survey:

- Want to publish a report on the User Survey before the User's Meeting
- There isn't an easy way for the UEC to be reached by members of the community
- Possible options: an email office, an online form
    - Pros and cons to both approaches, especially in terms of anonymity
- Also have a link to official channels for communication to other official channels

User's Meeting update

- Switching to all virtual
- Trying to keep to the 1 week schedule/timeframe, but may have to spill into following week given the fact that some workshop have European speakers/audience
- Need UEC members to help judge posters
- Also looking for nominations for Young Investigator award and for Bio community for UEC