

UEC Meeting November 14, 2016

UEC: Richard Sandberg, Christoph Bostedt, Bruce Doak, Petra Fromme, Arianna Gleason, Kristoffer Haldrup, Ross John Harder, Blaine Mooers, Daniel Rolles, Frank Rosmej, Peter Weber

LCLS: Mike Dunne, Bill White, Elizabeth Goodwin, Brittany Lemesh

1) Introductions of new UEC members:

- Christoph Bostedt (AMO)
- Bruce Doak (BIO)
- Arianna Gleason (MEC)
- Kristoffer Haldrup (CSD)

2) UEC Vice Chair status:

- Committee members emailed Richard Sandberg with nominations.
- Richard confirmed with nominees before putting them on the ballot.
- Anonymous poll was set up for committee members to vote for Vice Chair in December, 2016 and Christoph Bostedt from Argonne National Laboratory was elected the new Vice Chair.

3) Updates from Mike Dunne:

- 25% increase in number of proposals submitted for Run 15 (218 proposals submitted).
 - For Run 15, 2 times the number of AMO proposals were submitted. There was a similar increase in the number of HCM proposals with other areas about flat.
- In FY16, there was a 50% increase in the number of experiments delivered, which was largely due to standard configuration set ups, and 25% increase in the number of LCLS users from FY15 (with ~1062 unique users in the year).

4) Ideas for engagement of LCLS User community:

- Currently there is very little feedback from the user community on LCLS development plans, including major changes such as instruments for LCLS-II.
- How could we improve communication to the user base about the capabilities of the accelerator?
 - For example, soft x-ray seeding was brought online a year ago and can be ready in about an hour, but this new capability has not been conveyed to the community.
- Ideas for improvement of feedback:
 - Shorten the lengthy emails to brief descriptions of new developments.
 - Survey of capabilities and future of LCLS
 - Send directly to community as opposed to posting on a website.

- Petra, Arianna, Ross, and Kristoff to come up with a survey tool.
- Virtual meetings with LCLS department heads that would be broadcast to users. Richard and Christoph will explore this idea. Elizabeth contacted department heads and they are willing to proceed with these meetings. The first meeting may be scheduled in March, 2017, which would be two months before the Run 16 proposal deadline.

5) Long range plans for 2017 Users' meeting:

- Revisit this topic once a UEC Vice Chair is appointed.
- The annual Users' meeting may be moved to September instead of October.
- Richard emailed ALS Chair regarding their 2017 meeting dates.

6) UEC role during shut down:

- 6 month shut down Jan-June 2017.
- 1 year shut down June, 2018- June, 2019.
- Duties for UEC during shutdown
 - Act as the interface to the user community to obtain their priorities for LCLS upgrades, and the transition to LCLS-II and LCLS-II-HE.
 - What are the various ways to use new lab space (e.g. PSLB)?
 - Put in place improved ways to get users' input.
 - UEC could be a sounding board for end of run summary feedback.
 - What is working/not working for users?

7) SAC feedback from Arianna Gleason attendee:

- Talks on machine learning capabilities, new ways of handling data, improvement in detector capabilities for LCLS I.
- Should there be an email blast that focuses on the new capabilities per hutch?

8) UEC representation:

- No HCM nominees on election ballot for 2016-2017
 - Only 1 HCM representative currently on committee (Ross John Harder).
 - Richard reached out for HCM candidates and will ask users to vote.
- For the 2017-2018 election, there will be three voting members for each discipline.
- Add student/postdoc representative on committee?
 - 1 year term for student and postdoc with election in the Fall.

9) Food options onsite:

- Healthier food options in vending machines are being pursued:
 - Frozen meals from Luvu are being considered (SLAC would need to provide compostable plates and utensils).
 - Refrigerated machines with sandwiches, salads, yogurt are also being considered for NEH and FEH.

- Elizabeth will poll the staff scientists on food preferences for vending machines before the next UEC meeting.
- A request was made for more choices at SLACafé, and for extended opening times. This is being explored.

10) Other topics:

- Should we continue to offer access to collaborate with SSRL? There were no requests from users for this option. A prompt or box to check on proposal submission could be added if a user wanted to inquire about SSRL beamtime.
- It was requested to move the proposal submission deadline to Tuesday instead of Monday.
- Increase the number of UEC members when LCLS II is up and running.
- Next UEC teleconference meeting will be held on January 30, 2017.