

UEC Meeting Minutes

March 29th, 2024

Present: Margaret Doyle, Leilani Conradson, Alfred Zong, Ben Ofori-Okai, Brandon Tan Cathy Knotts, Chitra Rajendran, Ellisa Biasin, Mariano Trigo, Matthias Kling, Mengning Liang, Mike Dunne, Natalia Powers-Riggs, Nicholas Hartley, Paul Jones, Samuel Teittelbaum, Silvia Pandolfi

Director's Updates

- Mike gave brief updates, reminding the committee of the open UED call, and saying that the LCLS-II beam should be delivered to TMO for user experiments by June

New Universal Proposal System

- Leilani presented the new Universal Proposal System (UPS) for user proposals at LCLS, APS and NSLS-II. Emphasis on scalability, functionality, integration, security, customization and data integrity. See: <https://ups.servicenowservices.com/ups>
- This UPS system is being used for the current UED call (for Run 5) and is planned to be used for the next LCLS X-Ray call (Run 24) later this year.
- **ACTION:** User feedback is strongly encouraged, to inform priorities for correcting problems and improving the usability of this new portal
- Persistent unique identifiers (PIDs) such as ORCID for users and ROR for institutions allow for tracking the user from proposal submission to publication. Future work could leverage artificial intelligence to gain insights about usage.
- Data from old system (e.g. previous proposals) will be migrated over
- Over 50% of current LCLS users have ORCID, and will be required for all users for this new system
- Paul Jones demonstrated how a proposal is submitted, including a new keyword system which can be used as a search tool for e.g. finding appropriate reviewers
- This is still a work in progress. As an example, greater emphasis is needed for how to attached a full written proposal description
- Co-investigators can be added and can then edit the proposal within the portal
- The chair requests that UEC members try the Universal Proposal System for UED proposals and come back with feedback at the next meeting
- There will be townhall about the UPS on May 2. Requests that UEC test it out beforehand and come to townhall prepared to discuss.

Growth of the User Community

- Mengning Liang (LCLS instrument scientist and SRD Deputy Division Director for Strategy) presented a set of slides on how to sustainably grow the user community. This included considerations such as:
 - i. catering for new and experienced users
 - ii. matching demand to when capabilities come online and understand the pace of science in new areas and set reasonable expectations

- iii. outreach and strategic partnerships in emerging areas
- LCLS can't do this on their own, and needs help from the UEC to reach out to communities.
- Increasing use of standard configurations could allow more users to get data, such as by scheduling many beamtimes back-to-back with the same setup but different targets. At the moment, most standard configuration beamtimes are still 5 shifts, except for rapid-access protein screening time.
- When combining multiple beamtimes with the same setup, how do we deal with everything only coming together at the very end? Matthias emphasized in-house commissioning time tied to these combined beamtimes, and that other institutions are also looking at how to address this.
- Long author list on papers coming out of these facilities could give the impression that work can only be done at LCLS with big collaborations – suggestion that LCLS could produce a slide for users to include in presentations, giving them context about the facility and encouraging them to reach out if they are interested in performing experiments.
- Suggestion that new areas would benefit from 'community' proposals, as is currently done for "early science" for new instruments. LCLS sees Science Campaigns as also helping to expand the impact and reach into new communities, based on experience to date.

User Meeting Planning

- Currently short of workshop topics for the user meeting – Leilani will send out the link for workshop submissions before the deadline early next week.
- Mike reminded all UEC members that they are elected to represent their communities, so each member should submit their thoughts on what topics need to be addressed at the meeting.