

UEC Meeting Minutes – 2024-10-26

Attendance: R. Boll, M. Centurion, M. Doyle, M. Dunne, A. Follmer, N. Hartley, P. Jones, C. Laasch, J.-S. Lee, S.-C. Lin, L. Moreau, M. Mitrano, S. Pandolfi, N. Powers-Riggs, D. Oberthuer, B. Ofori-Okai, C. Rajendran, A. Rudenko, M. Schmidt, B. Tan, S. Teitelbaum, V. Tiwari, A. Zong

Introductions – Everyone

- New members – Welcome to the UEC! Excited to have you here!
- Outgoing members – thank you for your service!

Director’s comments – M. Dunne. Slides made available to UEC

- Duties and expectations of UEC Members
 - Purpose of the UEC is to act as representatives of different scientific areas and as of members the community at large
 - UEC provides connectivity between adjacent facilities/other light sources
 - Members should feel like leaders in the field as elected officials to the committee
 - Also remember that members are advocacy group for the facility and the user community, especially in instances of funding
 - Focus on
 - The needs and desires of the community on multiple topics – user experience
 - The strategic direction of the facility on how to think about investments in infrastructure
 - How to engage the wider community
 - UEC meets monthly with LCLS director, giving more access than any other LCLS committee
- Directors ask of the UEC: Participate fully, respectfully with positive intent and community-minded perspective
- Strategic context for user engagement along four different axes
 1. Open access to broad, growing, and changing user community
 2. Multiple major upgrade projects in parallel including new endstations, upgrades for LCLS-II-HE, MEC-U
 3. Intense transition in people growth, access, funding, and construction
 4. New changes in all aspect of experimental systems at LCLS due to new capabilities that are being developed and trying to figure out how can we leverage developments in AI/ML and other areas
- Also, thank you to the UEC for recognizing users and staff with last awards – LCLS Young Investigator and LCLS Users’ Recognition award

Feedback on Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) – M. Dunne

- Covered many different topical areas –
 - Facility status and strategy,
 - Scientific campaigns,
 - Science and R&D Campaigns,
 - Progress and plans for new instruments (TMO, ChemRIXS, qRIXS),
 - Changes in biosciences program at LCLS and how those experiments are done and what the community needs,
 - MEC and MEC-U and changes for HED science and fusion applications,
 - R&D projects, and
 - Scientific Health of LCLS
- Context provided to SAC:
 - LCLS strategy is clear at a strategic level and supported by DOE office of science and through funding
 - A number of challenges still to overcome:
 - Old technology and limited facility robustness and downtime impacts on the facility
 - Funding pressures
 - MEC-U has advanced positively in the last year, currently awaiting feedback from sponsor – DOE office of Fusion Energy Sciences (FES)
 - Data scales will be unprecedented. How will we develop the required data workflows needs more extensive engagement from the user community. The UEC's help is sought.
 - Staff stresses and sustainability. How can we help them
 - The community fragility, especially considering the compounding effect of downtimes, slow ramp-ups, oversubscription, and limited access and a
- DOE Quadrennial will be in April 22-24 2025
 - Covers 2021-2024 with a look ahead 2025-2028
 - Largest review of the facility on all aspects of LCLS Operations – science, facility, development, financials, etc
 - UEC and SAC input will be sought in at least a 1 hour zoom session
 - The meeting can be attended virtually – no required in person attendance

Chair Agenda – C. Rajendran

- Need to elect vice chair. Link for nominations was sent to members.

- Duties of the vice chair
 - Organize the LCLS/SSRL Annual User's Meeting
 - Serve as chair following year
 - Help organize the agenda for the UEC meetings
 - Full explanation outlined in bylaws:
 - https://lcls.slac.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/2023-10/LCLS_UO_Charter_083021.pdf
- Question: Can past members serve as the UEC Vice Chair?
 - No, need to be new/current existing members. People rotating off cannot serve
 - Only topical area representatives (i.e. those who serve 3 year terms) are eligible
- Topics for the meetings for this year
 - Google sheet with past topics will be shared to members of the UEC
 - Everyone is expected to provide contributions

Action items for the UEC before the next meeting - All:

1. Vice chair nominations. Send by Friday.
2. Choosing what topics we would like to have covered in the UEC meetings for this year – Each person should contribute 2-3 topics

Plans for UEC schedule for this year:

- UEC meetings will be the last Thursday of the month (8am Pacific), with the exception of November (third Thursday).
- To improve participation, UEC members will be encouraged to present details relevant to the different scientific areas they represent
 - Members of different scientific areas can all present together in one meeting or split across a few meetings
 - Meetings will be scheduled in advance.

Questions:

- What is the duration of the Vice-Chair?
 - The vice-chair is a single year. That person will then become UEC chair the following year, and then remain on the UEC for two more years.