

UEC Meeting Minutes – 2024-11-21

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, B. Tan, S. Teitelbaum, V. Tiwari, A. Zong

UEC Vice chair election: Nominees Alec Follmer and Silvia Pandolfi, asked UEC to cast their vote for Vice chair

Mike Updates:

- Run 24 (Expected: March-July 2025): PRP 2 weeks ago; questionnaires out in the next week, with initial schedule anticipated mid-December
- Run 25 (Expected: Sept 2025 -> end 2025)
CALL MAY GO OUT BEFORE CHRISTMAS and stay open through beginning of 2025
- LCLS-SC status: Commissioning
8.2 kHz, ~400uJ, 400 eV. In two weeks: double beam current to enable 16 kHz (maybe 32).
First user experiment performed @TMO using the new MRCO angularly resolved time-of-flight endstation. First “Early Science” experiments underway at ChemRIXS, and the initial commissioning with beam at qRIXS.
- 1 week until shutdown of XPP for ~1 year for upgrade in readiness for LCLS-II-HE. Note: other hard X-ray instruments (MFX, CXI, XCS) will be upgraded in a phased manner, subject to DOE funding.
- UED: Successful first test of apertured e-beam (from 100-200um to <30 um) to enable studies of inhomogeneous samples

Leilani: LCLS/SSRL USER MEETING

Sunday workshop: 165 attendees

Poster session: 85 poster (33 in the competition)

Sponsor/exhibitors: 4 platinum (\$3500) + 19 gold (\$2000)

Statistics: 519 Total Registrations, 495 Attendees (78 grad/undergrad)

Future topics for UEC discussion:

- suggested that all departments, including CSD, HCM, and M&I, should contribute their issues or topics for discussion
- emphasized the importance of each area speaking out and introducing their own topics for improvement

Ideas:

- Reliability of beamtime planning/stability problems
- Discussion on BIO: reliable metric to evaluate proposal numbers (too many different types of proposal)+ consistent timing between calls (no PCS and DSC at same time as main call?)

Overall result is that the number of proposal decreases

- How to involve more users?

Other ideas: senior scientists mentoring/instructions seminar (Youtube together with fundamentals at LCLS/SSRL)/clear communication

Improving Communication and Collaboration Efforts

- Discussed the challenges faced by new users in finding the necessary parameters for the current setup and the need for better communication
- Proposed the idea of a chat portal for immediate assistance and the creation of an FAQ list, in addition to the YouTube videos mentioned above.

Next steps:

- Leilani to send an invitation to Sandra and Mark Hunter for the next meeting to discuss guidelines for the Proposal Review Panel (PRP) and the types of proposals to make the submission process easier for bioscience users.
- Set up a dedicated YouTube channel to collect tutorial videos and seminars about beamlines and setups at LCLS and SSRL.
- Explore establishing a chat portal for each beamline to facilitate immediate communication with beamline staff.
- Consider making the chat portal responses visible as an FAQ on the website.