UEC Meeting Minutes – 7 February 2025

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, A. Rudenko, B. Tan, S. Teitelbaum, V. Tiwari, A. Zong, Gillis Dyer, Eric Galtier

Mike's Updates:

LCLS Superconducting Accelerator Progress and Concerns

- discussed the progress on commissioning and user science using the superconducting accelerator (from the LCLS 2 project). The gun vacuum failed in December, requiring a multi-week replacement of an RF window. Fortunately, much of this time was during the winter break, but some user time was effected. The run has been extended to make up for lost time, with some reshuffling of experiments
- working on increasing the robustness and energy of the copper Linac, with expectations of reaching 25 keV in Run 24 and 25 (has been limited to 18 keV recently)
- a concern was raised by UEC members about the proposal scheduling for RUN 24, as some proposers were not informed about whether their proposal was accepted or not, even after the schedule was released. Mike assured that the issue would be resolved by the end of the day
- Another concern was raised about lack of clear feedback on rejected proposals from the PRP. Mike asked for details and agreed to discuss this further

LCLS Funding Concerns and Reporting

- UEC members asked about the potential impact arising from new federal instructions regarding diversity and inclusion. To date, the most significant change has been the withdrawal of PIER plans for future project proposals.
- Mike noted that financial support for all federal programs comes through Congress, with the current "Continuing Resolution" set to be renewed or replaced by 14th March.
- The new Secretary of Energy was confirmed yesterday, and sent a letter to all staff outlining his robust support for basic science and a broad range of energy technologies

Silvia Pandolfi, Nicolas Hartley and Ben Ofori-Okai – MEC Presentation

The MEC representatives introduced the various configurations and experiments conducted at the MEC, focusing on the extreme states of matter that can be explored and their applications (e.g., material science, geoscience, and fusion energy science). An overview of the techniques and the standard experimental

configurations available at LCLS has been provided. Recent technique developments (e.g., Inelastic X-ray Scattering for temperature measurements and THz spectroscopy for electrical conductivity measurements).
The presentation included a comparison with other XFEL sources that have HED-dedicated instruments: SACLA and European XFEL.

Young Investigator Award Criteria Discussion

The team discussed the criteria and process for the Young Investigator Award nomination and selection, including the possibility of changing the rules for prize assignation during the User Meeting. The process of bringing two speakers, but only giving one an award, is often unclear and unpopular; SSRL has two speakers but also two separate awards. Regarding eligibility criteria, such as the time frame for PhD defense and employment status, these are clearly stated on the website, but it can be hard to get confirmation that candidates meet the criteria. It was proposed to clearly state the eligibility criteria in the call for nomination, and to possibly require the candidates' CV for confirmation of the PhD defense date. They also considered setting the eligibility date as January 1st of the year, rather than the date of the Users Meeting. The discussion will continue during in the next UEC meeting to finalize the rules for the award.

Next steps

• Leilani to send out the call for nominations for the Young Investigator Award in April, (with clear eligibility criteria and nomination process).
• UEC committee to define and communicate clear eligibility criteria for the Young Investigator Award, including date of PhD defense and employment status.