

SSRL Users' Organization Meeting Notes

October 19, 2010

Election. SSRL UEC Election results were announced:

- Bio Spectroscopy/Bio SAXS Representative: Serena DeBeer
- Environmental/Geosciences Representative: Sarah Hayes

Industry. There was a discussion about our relationship with industry (currently about 7% of our user community is from industry). DOE is clearly interested in encouraging industry users and showing an impact on industry from the lightsource facilities. The most important thing is good science, so we should identify the right areas and work to attract industry users. Questions to consider include: Where's the opportunity for impact for SSRL? Are there potential barriers to industry users? Should we add an industry representative to the UEC. **ACTION: Discuss at next UEC meeting. Amend UEC charter to include industry representative for the next election.**

Planning. SSRL Director Chi-Chang Kao summarized his plans and future directions for SSRL during his plenary session presentation at the annual meeting, see talk posted at http://www-conf.slac.stanford.edu/ssrl-lcls/2010/pdfs/2010_SSRL_Users_Meeting_Kao.pdf

There will be an SSRL Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting in January 2011, and the topics to be discussed are similar to those in his annual meeting talk. C.-C. Kao, P. Pianetta and B. Hedman are working on reorganizing SSRL and developing a long-range strategic plan to meet SSRL 's future needs. They are considering questions such as which beam lines should we build out? How much will that cost? We need feedback from the UEC representing the larger communities to help in the planning process. **ACTION: User input requested. C.-C. Kao plans to hold frequent conference calls with the UEC chair and UEC members to solicit input and facilitate an ongoing dialog.**

User feedback through end of run summaries, periodic surveys or other communication is important to help us understand issues facing users and to complete yearly reports for DOE. It is important for SSRL management to have broad data about users, beam lines, techniques, opportunities, etc. so that we can expand in areas where we have a strong response from users. There may be additional opportunities related to LCLS and additional infrastructure investments that could help both programs, e.g., time resolved, getting laser spots to match, etc.

The users organization could help devise the questions for a user survey. What topics should be covered in the survey? What are the typical issues raised by users? How can we encourage and facilitate interaction between SSRL and LCLS users? Is there a better way to collect information? It was suggested to add a 'User Feedback/Contact Us' feature on the SSRL website where any user could submit comments, questions or suggestions; this would be in addition to the end of the run summary.

ACTION: Develop and distribute user survey. Add 'Contact Us' link on SSRL website.

Workshops: Feedback from the user community helps define the types of workshops to hold during the year and in conjunction with the annual conference. It was suggested that workshops be arranged throughout the year if we are going to invest in new capabilities or instruments. Some users expressed interest in applying for an NFS grant to host a series of scientific meetings. It would be good to have more representation from the user community to share information and broaden scientific interactions. Joint activities and workshops with LCLS are valuable, but overlapping schedules make it difficult for

users to attend concurrent workshops. **ACTION: Users asked to provide input into types of workshop desired and to help organize relevant workshops.**

User Support: The SSRL Floor Coordinator (duty operator) is the first line of support to users, and rotating program managers are on call until 10:00pm at night if users need help while conducting experiments at SSRL. Additional support is frequently needed after regular working hours and weekends, for example to help with locked up motors. Some creative users will walk around and ask for help from other more experienced users on other beam lines when the duty operator can't help.

ACTION: Discuss how evening/weekend user support might be improved.