

SSRL Users' Organization Meeting

Thursday, January 27, 2011

The Users' Executive Committee (UEC) met in SSRL Building 137, 3rd Floor Conference Room, with several members participating by teleconference. The following topics were discussed.

Welcome/Introductions: UEC Chair Beth Wurzburg announced the Vice Chair Election Results. The UEC welcomes Serena DeBeer as the next UEC Vice Chair; the Vice Chair will co-organize the next users' conference and serve as Chair next year.

Strategic planning: SSRL Director Chi Chang Kao discussed his plans to develop a long-range strategic plan for SSRL and to prepare a strategic plan document outlining opportunities for the next 3-5 years. Scientific opportunities could include materials by design, emerging phenomena from complexity, discovery to deployment. The planning process will also consider mapping beam lines to major scientific opportunities, considering uniqueness and competitive analysis, core competencies and enabling technologies as well as infrastructure and accelerator upgrades. Users are encouraged to think about strategic opportunities to build on SSRL's capabilities and expertise. User input will continue to be solicited as the strategic planning process unfolds over the next several months.

DOE BES Program Review: The triennial BES program review of SSRL will be held on February 9-11, 2011. The agenda and list of reviewers was provided to the UEC so they would know who they would be meeting with. In preparation for the UEC discussion at noon on Feb 9, Robert Szilagyι shared his recollection of the discussion topics from the 2008 BES review, including:

- User communications with management and participation in facility planning
- How does the facility obtain and respond to user feedback
- User satisfaction with the facility and overall scientific experience
- Adequacy of staff to support user experiments

SSRL Users Survey: Users were asked to consider what issues/questions should be included on an on-line survey. Currently users are asked to complete a survey after each scheduled experiment as a forum to 'rate' their experience at SSRL in a number of areas as well as to alert us if they had any problems that we need to address. SSRL developers incorporated the survey into the user portal for the FY2009 run, created reports to show the responses received, and recently developed an automated email to remind users to provide feedback. User feedback is reviewed by SSRL management and staff. We plan to develop programming for administrative tools needed to more easily notify, sort, track and reply to user feedback. We welcome user input as we think how best to compile and report this kind of information.

Feedback from the 2010 Users' Conference and Suggestions for Users' Conference, Oct. 24-26, 2011:

- Keynote Policy Speaker Suggestion: Pat Dehmer, Role of DOE in the National Research Strategy?
- Keynote Science Speaker Suggestion: Helmut Dosch, Future Photon Science Opportunities?
- Workshop Suggestions: Opportunities for Timing Studies (Low Alpha Mode); Opportunities for Increased Throughput for Materials Characterization; Synchrotron for Dummies (What is XAFS? XES? RIXS? TXM? STXM?); Communicating Research Accomplishments for a lay audience; Discussion of SSRL Known Substances XAFS Database – Scott Calvin

Industrial User Representation. In an ongoing effort to engage industry users to SSRL, the UEC agreed to expand their membership to include a representative from industry. Please forward suggestions for

industry candidates for UEC to Cathy Knotts to be included on the UEC ballot which will be distributed later in the year.

EXAFS Database: Scott Calvin, who has been on sabbatical at SSRL, discussed his work on an EXAFS database for users to deposit their EXAFS spectra as a reference for other users. Matt Sazinsky subsequently mentioned that the NSF requires a data management plan as part of every proposal, see NSF policy on the dissemination and sharing of research results (see AAG Chapter VI.D.4 <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf11001/aag_6.jsp#VID4>) Plans include:

1. the types of data, samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials, and other materials to be produced in the course of the project;
2. the standards to be used for data and metadata format and content (where existing standards are absent or deemed inadequate, this should be documented along with any proposed solutions or remedies);
3. policies for access and sharing including provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other rights or requirements;
4. policies and provisions for re-use, re-distribution, and the production of derivatives; and
5. plans for archiving data, samples, and other research products, and for preservation of access to them.

NUFO Update. Cathy Knotts discussed outreach events for the National User Facility Organization (NUFO) that are planned in 2011:

- Tentative: American Astronomical Society Meeting in Seattle, January 10-14, 2011
http://aas.org/meetings/meetings_future.php
- AAAS Mtg, Feb 17-21, 2011 (DC) <http://www.aaas.org/meetings/>
- American Physical Society Mtg, March 21-25, 2011 (Dallas)
<http://www.aps.org/meetings/march/index.cfm>
- Tentative: American Chemical Society Meeting, March 27-31, 2011 (Anaheim)
http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP_SUPERARTICLE&node_id=431&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1&uuid=0c8ca4b9-6a12-4132-b8a7-b72d7fe0da09
- Exhibition in DC (probably early April)
- American Physical Society Mtg, April 30-May 3, 2011 (Anaheim)
<http://www.aps.org/meetings/april/index.cfm>
- NUFO Annual Mtg at SLAC, June 27-29 (Possible sessions on: site, security & computer access; user safety best practices; communications (practical training for translating research accomplishments for lay audience))

SLAC Energy Task Force Presents Options, Welcomes Input: The SLAC Energy Task Force will hold a Town Hall Meeting to encourage people to contribute ideas about how SLAC may develop a more focused approach toward energy research. Task force members, led by SLAC Chief Scientist Z-X Shen, are soliciting input and weighing what options for energy research make the most sense, given existing SLAC and Stanford infrastructure, expertise and relationships. Members of the task force will also consider the potential lines of research to contribute to goals for sustainable energy use. Two areas that may show the most promise may be studies of catalysts and nanomaterials. Fellow task force member Mike Toney will discuss research into nanomaterials to develop more efficient photovoltaic cells, better batteries and better superconductors. In addition to advancing energy technology, such research would address one of the Department of Energy's Grand Challenges—how to control matter at the level of electrons. The on-line feedback link does not work for SSRL users who don't have SLAC computer accounts, but users can forward ideas directly to Mike Toney.