

Minutes of UEC Meeting

December 11, 2012

Called to order at 9:00 A.M. in NSLS Conf. Room A.

Attendance: Dario Arena (call-in), Jen Bohon, Dan Fischer, Jean Jordan-Sweet, Karl Ludwig (call-in), Bruce Ravel, John Smedley, Peter Stephens, Ryan Tappero. *Ex-officio*: Kathy Nasta and Gretchen Cisco.

1) Administrative business (J. Bohon):

- a) Minutes from 8/30/2012 meeting: corrections by Dario, Dan, Peter and Jen will be incorporated. Unanimously approved with corrections.

2) Partner User Policy (PUP) discussion (Q. Shen):

- a) Update on status of draft was given. Purpose of the user access program is for “high-impact-enabling revolutionary discoveries in science and technology”, and to support the research pipeline. The User Access Policy has been pretty-much finalized and the draft has been posted on line since early 2012. There are 3 modes of access: General User (>40%), Partner User (<40%/cycle for up to 3 years, or 5 years in special cases), and Beamline Staff (10%, research only- not peer reviewed). PU contributed resources can be an endstation, staff and equipment to support a given research program, design and construction of a beamline. PU spokesperson would put in a request for beamtime to the Allocation Panel each cycle, like CUs do now.
- b) PU and staff beamtime allocation: Some discussion about peer review and beamtime allocation. PU proposals are to be approved by the management and/or SAC (depending on type), and are approved for some average % of beam time. Then the PU requests beam time through the PASS system and it is allocated, but Qun said that if PU requests have a large fluctuation cycle-to-cycle, they need to balance with GU proposals. Commissioning time gets taken off the top before any allocations and will need YE reporting. A discussion on bookkeeping and safety reviews was held. A suggestion was made that there be an ombudsman for the staff.
- c) **Action Item: Qun will get the required signature to remove the “Draft” label from the UAP. Will try to get it signed by February.**
- d) Question: To what extent is a PU contribution available to all users? It differs by each agreement (ex. Hpsync at APS-- some equipment might require collaborative use requirements.) Each case is specific and evaluated by the SAC. The UEC requested that a statement be put in the PUA saying that any agreement will be very specific about what resources will be shared.
- e) SAC evaluation of PU proposals: SAC will meet 2x a year, not every cycle. But proposal evaluations will have to coincide with the cycles.
- f) PU Policy (PUP) draft: still waiting for approval. 3 scales of proposal: Limited scope (up to 3 years, <15% time), Extended scope (up to 5 years, >15% time), and facility partnership (40% plus proportional fraction of 10% for staff research). Evaluated on case-by-case basis. How to compare GU vs. PU proposals? Science/technology evaluation is equivalent for all proposals, and for PU proposals an additional evaluation of resources to be provided. Science has to come first. How big and detailed will the PUP be? It will be general in nature, but it might be good to provide guidelines for the three types, but no real specifics.
- g) PUA vs. MOU: Not settled on what it will be called. MOU seems to relate to building resources and PUA seems to relate to operational beamlines. Type 2 beamlines will

need MOUs during the development phase and a PUP during ops. Question: could the MOU serve as the PU proposal? John Smedley related his recent experience with MOUs: BNL is moving away from MOUs and more towards requisitions, Cooperative R&D Agreements and Work For Others.

3) 2013 Users' Meeting Update (B. Ravel):

- a) Theme: "Telling Our Stories, Sharing Our Science."
- b) Program: updates from Steve Dierker, Emilio Mendez, Interim BNL Director Doon Gibbs, Harriet Kung. Four plenary talks by Carl Safina of Blue Ocean Institute, Ainissa Ramirez (matls engineer and "scientific evangelist"), Elizabeth Bass (Director of USB Center for Communicating Science), Paul Doucette (Batelle lobbyist).
- c) Workshops: on Monday and Wednesday, 6 full-day workshops.
 - i) Single Molecule Spectroscopy
 - ii) Frontiers in X-ray and Electron Imaging
 - iii) Soft X-rays for Critical Energy Technologies
 - iv) Charge Transfer on the Mesoscale
 - v) 30-year Retrospective of Science at the NSLS (Cecilia Sanchez-Henke and Larry Carr organizers, ~15 speakers)
 - vi) USB CCS: "Improv for Scientists" and "Distilling Your Message" (2 half-days, swapping attendees at lunchtime)
- d) Vendors: proposing a 3-tiered fee scale at Berkner and a fourth category for small tables at remote workshop locations (Chemistry and CFN).
- e) Banquet: The Vineyards in Aquebogue, perhaps tapas and music (and wine).

4) User Administration Update (K. Nasta, G. Cisco):

- a) Vendor fees were proposed to be increased in accordance with historical standards and adjustments to vendor costs based on location were proposed.
- b) UEC Accounts: available funding in the UEC accounts was discussed, with the majority of funds falling into the "unallowable" category, which has significant flexibility.
- c) 2012 meeting earnings: meeting earning show that the "allowable" expenses outweigh "allowable" income, but that this is made up for by excess "unallowable" income. We have a high balance in the accounts, with which the UEC could do some extra outreach. However, lean years are coming...
- d) Transition communications update: Draft web page layout was produced in August, and is being moved to PS main site. New tab on main PS page will be ready at end of CY2012. Will contain direct links to additional information provided in various places throughout PS web site. Erik Johnson is main organizer and is pushing it.
- e) FY 2012 User statistics: 2453 users (up due to education outreach and staff working on new beamlines). 775 publications. 311,000 beamline-hours (347,000 in FY2011) and 329,000 actually used (332,000 in FY2011). The "actually used" number is obtained from SAFs and includes unscheduled ops. User makeup: 1/3 from NY state, 1/3 from Northeast, 1/2 US citizens, 65% undergrad-grad-postdoc, 29% women. Charts will be posted on PS web site soon.
- f) Move of User Admin office: It's being moved to LOB 3 by January 1 (temporarily), with Gladys, Nancye and Mercy in cubicles to the left, Gretchen on the right after the conference room, and Kathy to the right, next to the entrance. Permanent location will be to LOB 1 or 5, which will be ready in the summer. An announcement will be made soon. Badging might not be available- may have to go to GUV Center. This comes about for two reasons: 1) space charges are starting when the LOBs are ready and 2) the move of the entire accelerator group and control room to the second floor of the

NSLS. Jen and Qun have discussed the possibility of temporarily taking over the NSLS lobby or seminar room. A complicating factor is the special data network line they use for badging, which would need to be rerouted from the current office. The UEC asked Kathy for her preferences, and she said she would like to have the whole staff stay at NSLS at least one more year, in a) back half of seminar room or b) lounge/solarium near U6, or c) library. Kathy has also been asked to come up with a permanent arrangement for the eventual move to LOB 1 or 5. The UEC decided to voice its concern to Diane Hatton during the Town Meeting, that budget concerns are outweighing user needs. User concerns seem to be at the bottom of the priority list. Moving 2 times and to the wrong place is also inefficient and expensive. The UEC decided to suggest the library or Conf Rm A as a temporary home until the permanent move.

- g) Badging: The NSLS badging system will go offline in the summer. The NSLS-II system will require 2 badges- one for general BNL site access and one for NSLS-II access. NSLS-II wants to control its own building security. Tony Mendez will start configuring for staff badging. Users will get their site badge from Bldg 400 (GUV Center) and a prox(imity) card (RF ID) from User Admin for NSLS-II access.

5) General Discussions/UEC Business (J. Bohon)

- a) Vote on vendor fees: new increased, graded fees for user meeting vendors (as described by Kathy) were approved unanimously.
- b) Vote on budget for 30-year retrospective workshop: Everyone approved the additional cost of this workshop with a \$20k cap on the total cost of bringing speakers in. Also approved the allocation of money to videotape the workshop.
- c) Nominating Committee: need 10 candidates. John Smedley volunteered to lead committee again this year. Jean and Dan were coerced into serving under John. He will also ask Annie Heroux to be on the committee.
- d) Talking points for meeting with Qun after the Town Meeting: 1) User office location, and 2) how to connect with Steve Dierker.
- e) NUFO visit to Washington DC: Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday (in April?) for hands-on displays, approachable science, science having societal impact, congressional visits. Add home district follow-up visits. NUFO needs volunteers to propose "sexy" science topics, hands-on stuff, relate-able science, and also to do the presentations and visits. In 2014 there will be an AAAS meeting on user facility science and they need help, too.
- f) The UEC determined that a meeting with Steve Dierker was needed to provide advice on user access policies and other user issues.

6) Town Meeting

7) Discussion with Management (Q. Shen, D. Hatton):

- a) User Admin office: Diane listed the following constraints: 1) must vacate User Admin office in order to set up new control room ASAP; need the control room up and running for booster ops in April. 2) the second floor of NSLS will be completely occupied by the 170 people of the Accelerator Division. 3) the upstairs conference room will be needed for the accelerator group. 4) open to using anything on the experimental floor. The library was proposed by the UEC as a good possibility: two doors nearby, so one could be used for open (no badge required) access to the library while the other is left as is. Need to have a good path and signage to route people to that entrance. LOB 1 is preferred for final location of the User Admin office because fewer beamlines are located in that vicinity. Management will be housed in LOB 5.
- b) Badging: the switch to prox cards will be made in July 2013. Probably put into place

over the July 4th break. Prox cards can access up to 12 different places and NSLS-II can exercise more flexibility with access levels, times, etc.

- c) UAP and PAP: Dan Fischer mentioned his concern about Exxon leaving. Industry is concerned with not having official access policies. He reiterates the need for a meeting with Steve Dierker to motivate him to get these policies finalized.
- d) SAC needs to meet- hopefully in March. They had broad comments on the Partner User Policy and Procedures.
- e) NxtGen beamlines: most of the money for this is in FY 2014 budget and we'll know the amount requested by the DOE by February 2013. PS will either make a decision then whether/when to proceed, or will launch the design effort for some of the beamlines in January and then consider the FY2014 money. Qun was reminded that these beamlines will greatly serve the user community, and that the NextGen project got a lot of support from the DOE. He explained the delay came from PS's surprise at the shortage of NSLS-II ops money in FY2013. They expected \$35M this year. As of November, the new guidance was \$25M. The president's budget was for \$22M. Now the most recent guideline is \$16M for FY2013. (For NSLS it's \$15.6M for the first few months, and \$31M for the year). NSLS-II plans got messed up by the shortfall. Qun was asked if we should pursue other funding for the NxtGen beamlines. He said the mission is still there, but the scope and timing can be changed. There will still be a "dark" period.

8) UEC Closing Business (J. Bohon):

- a) Jen will set up a meeting with Steve Dierker through Laura Miller, cc-ing Qun.
- b) Next UEC meeting will be end of February/early March. Jen will send a Doodle poll.
- c) Jen will send a NUFO volunteer/idea request to the UEC members.
- d) Jen will send a wrap-up thank-you e-mail to Diane and Qun.
- e) Jen will ask Diane to give an operations update at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 4:11 P.M.

Submitted by J. Jordan-Sweet, Jan 3, 2013
Revised by J. Bohon, May 10, 2013