

Abbreviated UEC Meeting Minutes-7/19/2021

Online full meeting

Present: Johanna Nelson Weker, Alex Frano, Hope Michelsen, Inna Vishik, Eric Meshot, Yingge Du, Matthijs van Spronsen, Antoine Wojdyla, Ming Yi, Clemns Heske

From ALS management/User Office: ndrea Taylor, Ashley White, Cindy Lee, Andreas Scholl

User Meeting Preparations

Two Nobel Laureates are scheduled to speak at this year's User Meeting! Scheduled for Aug. 10-13 (<https://als.lbl.gov/user-meeting/>), and organization of the panel Q&A was discussed.

User Meeting Awards were discussed as they will be presented at the meeting.

There will be virtual lounges set up during the User Meeting where users can jump in during breaks, etc. for an informal discussion on various topics. Stay tuned to the posted agenda for specified topics.

The ALS management is organizing trainings and dry runs ahead of time to ensure the virtual talks, posters, and separate workshops provide for a positive experience for both presenters and attendees.

ALS Operations Update (Andreas Scholl)

Plan for fall

New and evolving COVID protocols were discussed that are geared to reflect the local region requirements while facilitating as many users on site as possible. Total onsite workers are increasing (target ~50% total workers onsite in fall).

Guest house remains closed but can be opened once it is safe and the need is there for traveling users.

Travel/safety policies were discussed (domestic and international), and users should check the ALS website and user office for updates on requirements before coming to the ALS.

Preparing for fire season

LBNL working with PG&E to prepare for maximum resiliency against power shutdowns. ALS seeking other future strategies to keep part of the facility running at some capacity during shutdowns.

Communication infrastructure was discussed so ALS/LBNL can reach maximum number of users in shortest amount of time (especially those traveling from outside the region).

2-Bunch planning

There are technical limitations post ALS-U to offer high current pulses, so ALS is considering phasing out 2-bunch time over next 1-2 years. ALS wishes to provide a transition period where researchers (e.g., thesis students) can finish up their work.

The ALS is engaging stakeholders, including PRTs, beamline staff, user community, UEC, and Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) to identify best path forward.