

APS User Organization Town Hall and DEI Session Debrief

APSUO Townhall

The APS Users Organization (APSUO) Steering Committee is hosting two Town Halls for the APS user community: May 11 & 12, 12:00 noon to 1:00 each day. Log into CrowdCompass ([online](#) or in the [app](#)) to find the virtual event link.

The APS User Organization would like to hear from you! The APSUO Steering Committee is hosting these Town Halls to hear about your user experience so that they can better advocate for you. Stop by to share your experience and meet the steering committee!

Town Hall Debrief

- Day 1- 1 person attended. Day 2: Attended by a couple of users from Sector 34 and Sector 1.
- User from China asked about the possibility to allocate extra time in 2022-3 to make up for those users currently in lockdown, who are not only unable to travel, but also not able to access their own labs to carry out the prep and mail-in aspects of remote experiments.
- User asked about how to find information on the planned dates and duration of the upgrade; Michelle pointed them to the landing page: <https://www.aps.anl.gov/APS-Upgrade>
- User asked about the timeline for recovery to normal pre-pandemic operations, and what the summer might look like. Dennis Mills commented about the raising of the in-person cap from its current value of 3 to a new cap of 5 from May 31, presuming that Paige County stats continue to trend in the right direction. Michelle commented on the reopening of the Argonne Guest House and 401 Grille, which should happen in the next week.
- User commented that it seems impossible for them to get beamtime on CNM. Once had the same comments from reviewers despite rewriting the proposal completely. Main criticism was that the work was not feasible, despite the user having had thorough discussion with beamline staff. The user works on biological samples, but CNM may be more focused on materials. Tom commented that the mission of the beamline may be important, and that it may be that this beamline simply isn't funded for this purpose. **Perhaps the beamline mission and purview could be better communicated to the user?** The committee suggested to the user to look into the scoring for those beamlines, and see if their scores were indeed competitive. It may also be worthwhile to look into the specialties/expertises of the individual PRP members, which should hopefully be a reflection of the beamlines mission. **Perhaps this information be added:** <https://aps.anl.gov/About/Committees/Proposal-Review-Panels>
- The user also suggested an increase in the remote access options for users to run experiments, both in terms of experiment performance and monitoring, as well as accessing the data more easily during and after the beamtime. Although it may not be appropriate for all experiments, the flexibility should be there for the user if it does not diminish the efficiency of the beamline.

Town Hall Debrief

- *We need to work on our communication plan. Announcement went out 1 week before the townhalls.*
- *How do we increase attendance?*
 - *More regular townhalls, perhaps quarterly*
 - *Increase communication with users*
 - *We need to build a relationship with users*

Allyship in the Workplace

We're rolling out a new training to empower you to show up as an ally. Lean In's Allyship at Work program helps you understand your positional power and privilege and teaches you more than 50 specific ways you can take meaningful action as an ally.

What to expect:

- The program kicks off with a virtual four-hour workshop that serves as a primer on allyship, why it's important, and how to practice it. During the workshop, you will be placed in a breakout room for small group discussions.

When:

- Date/Time: May 6th, 9 am- 1 pm

What do you need:

- There's no need to prepare anything in advance. We will be using this personal workbook through the workshop. It is stored locally on your computer, your responses are private and only you have access to them. ([Allyship-Control-Workbook \(leanin.org\)](https://leanin.org/allyship-control-workbook))

Additional information about the program can be found here:

- [Allyship at Work \(leanin.org\)](https://leanin.org/allyship-at-work)



APS DEI Session

- 26 attendees
 - 144 people registered for the session
- Feedback
 - Too long of a session. Consider shorter sessions in the future
 - Great discussion in the breakout rooms
 - Thanks for organizing this session
 - how do we reach those who could truly benefit from DEI the most?
 - In the future we should consider having 2-3 sessions covering different topics.
 - All in all successful first session of DEI. We should continue to have a DEI session at future meetings.