

**General User Program
Evaluation Committee
Preliminary Report**

Keith Brister

February 9, 2005

GUPEC Members

Member	EMail	Beamline Affiliation
Keith Brister (Chair)	brister@cars.uchicago.edu	BioCARS
Steve Ginell	ginell@anl.gov	SBC
Thomas Gog	gog@anl.gov	CMC
Tim Graber	graber@cars.uchicago.edu	ChemMatCARS
Dean Haeffner	haeffner@aps.anl.gov	XOR
Lisa Keefe	keefe@anl.gov	IMCA
Mark Rivers	rivers@cars.uchicago.edu	GSE
Stuart Stock	s-stock@northwestern.edu	
Paul Zschack	zschack@anl.gov	UNI

Entire Committee: gupec@biocars.org

Web Site: <http://biocars.org/gupec>

Introduction

- The GUPEC conducted a review of the APS GUP system policies and procedures
- The process was as inclusive as possible:
 - Town meeting
 - On-line survey of GU's (200 responses)
 - Interviews of CAT stakeholders
 - PRP and BAC members invited to contribute by email
 - Web based discussion forum
- About 300 stakeholders made use of at least one of these methods to provide input to the committee

Summary

- Overall the GU community does not see a need for major changes
 - PRP/BAC system should be kept
 - PRP's are appropriately distributed
 - In spite of some discontent, the system serves the community well
- The committee made about 20 recommendations to improve the program
- Preliminary report can be found at <http://biocars.org/gupec>

Summary (2)

- The major proposed change is to have only one type of proposal instead of two:
 - All proposals would expire after 1 year
 - PRP recommends maximum shifts
 - Advantages
 - Allows a continuum between the current individual and program proposals
 - Addresses the common problem of new proposals being due before the previous proposal has seen beam
 - Simplifies the system

Summary (3)

- There is an apparent mismatch between supply and demand for various techniques
 - No change in the policies and procedures that the GUPEC can recommend will greatly improve the GU experience unless this mismatch is addressed
 - The GUPEC recommends the APS and beamline management teams work together to better match the supply and demand
 - Any long range strategic plan must include the general user program

Summary (4)

- Several problems with the mechanics of the system are due to the various APS, ANL, and DOE databases not communicating with each other. This problem needs to be solved but the GUPEC is not in a position to recommend detailed changes.

Summary (5)

- The APS should take the lead in promoting the GUP. Currently many beamlines believe this task is being left up to them.