

Snowmass Summer Study

Closing Comments

Grant Logan

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- The last two weeks has been an important step in the ongoing process of communication and integration of the MFE, IFE, plasma science and fusion technology communities in the Fusion Energy Science Program.
- The significance of what we have accomplished at Snowmass will take some time to appreciated fully, but you can count on hearing many references to Snowmass discussions over the next year or two, and there will be much future use of the report of the Snowmass Proceedings that will come out end of September.
- For certain, this summer study has further refined and clarified the many issues and opportunities in the US fusion program that were considered by FESAC earlier. But more importantly, the summer study encouraged a much broader participation, discussion, and debate on those issues and opportunities by a larger cross section of the fusion community, and has brought more experts in the various disciplines into critical analysis of the issues and opportunities. This “grass roots” participation was a key part of the vision for the summer study that Mike Mauel proposed at the Madison town meeting on next steps options last year , and from that point of view, Snowmass has fulfilled his vision. As a result of Snowmass, there is now a much broader fusion community buy-in to the issues and opportunities than FESAC could have provided alone.
- One of the most important contributions of Snowmass has been the cross-discipline interactions, not just in the cross-cutting and plenary sessions, but also, very importantly, in the many informal one-on-one and ad hoc group discussions, dinner discussions, and associated rump sessions. The Snowmass session debates, and the personal and small group interactions over the extended two week period of Snowmass has improved cross-community understanding between the MFE, IFE, plasma science and fusion technology communities, which will help the continuing integration process, much of which will likely have to be in video-conferences, after Snowmass.

- Again, we need to think of Snowmass as a step in a continuing process of cross-community communication and integration. Lets continue to discuss the implications of the Snowmass Proceedings, and at a “Snowmass” town meeting during the APD-DPP meeting this November. Everyone here should maintain a dialog among the various disciplines comprising fusion research. Please pass this message on to your colleagues when you get home. We will be sending out a questionnaire to Snowmass participants, asking you to reflect on the last two weeks, and on the how the Snowmass process can be continued and improved.
- Finally, we owe a lot of thanks to the many people who made Snowmass a success. We appreciate the hard work of all those who came and contributed to the working groups; especially to the convenors and session leaders who conducted the many Snowmass sessions, and who will write much of the Snowmass technical proceedings. Lets give applause to the tireless and superb efforts of six working group chairmen who organized, guided, and summarized each working group (please, would the working group chairmen stand up). We also wish to thank the Snowmass convention facilitators Christine Connoly and John Corcoran, whose logistical support was indispensable to the conduct of our business. The three co-organizers, Mike Mauel, Rich Hawryluk, and myself, wish to give special thanks to John DeLooper, who was the real facilitator who made Snowmass function smoothly, and worked out our master schedule, gave us all essential directions to our meeting rooms, and gave us all an office away from home in the computer center. Lets give a round of applause to John DeLooper (John, please stand up). We also wish to recognize the encouragement and support of the DOE Office of Fusion Energy Sciences for the summer study. Finally, last but not least, we need to all give special thanks to Mike Mauel, whose vision for Snowmass was what led us all here. Lets give a round of applause to Mike!