



LARGE SYNOPTIC SURVEY TELESCOPE

Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST)
**LSST2015 Project and Community
Workshop Survey Results**

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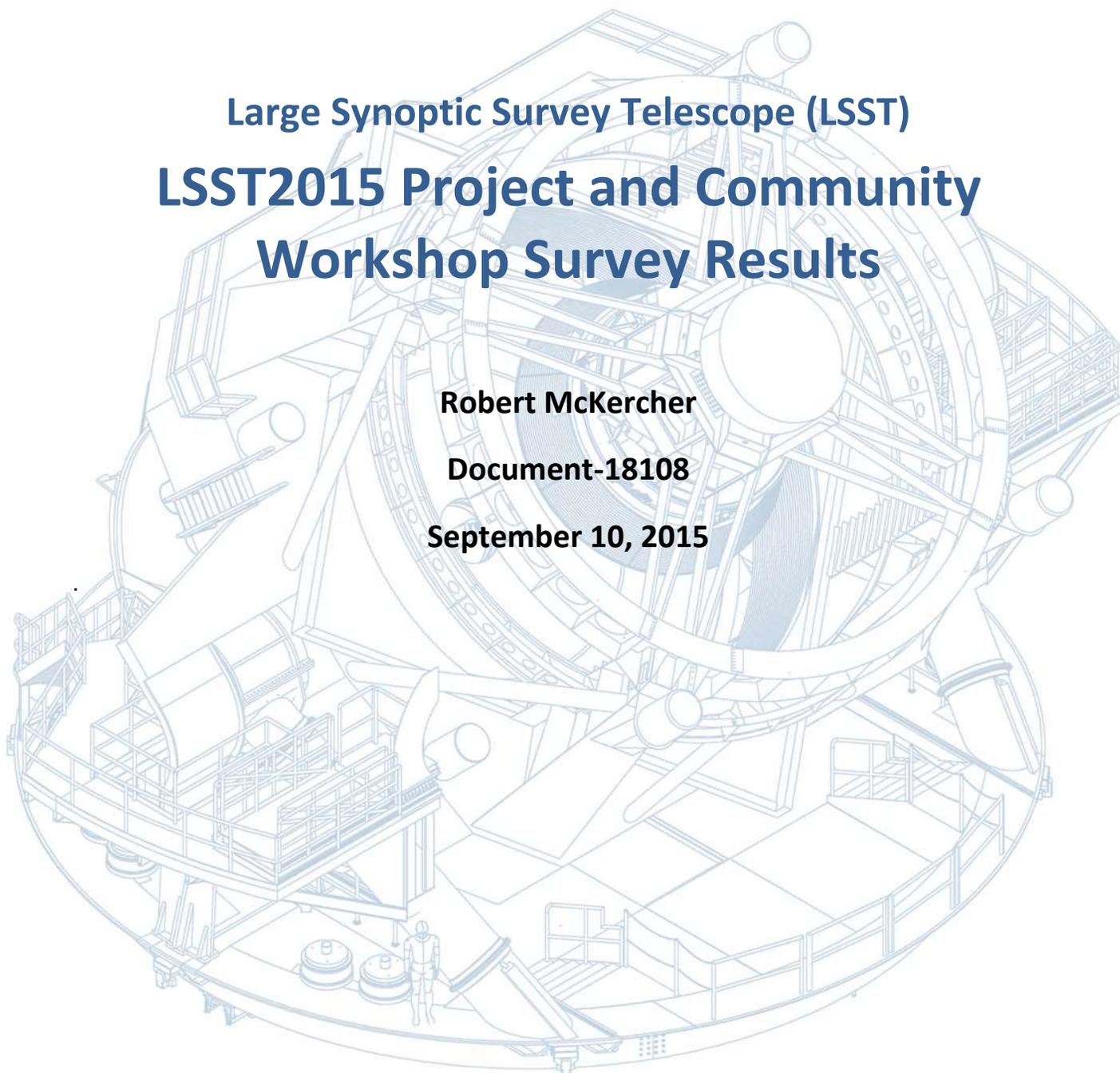




Table of Contents

Change Record i

Executive Summary..... 1

Background and Introduction 3

Survey Results 4

Question 1: Name 4

Question 2: What LSST groups are you part of? 4

Question 3: Please rate the meeting practicalities, from Great to Awful..... 4

Question 4: Did the LSST Travel Administrator coordinate your trip? 7

Question 5: If the Travel Administrator coordinated you trip, please rate her service 7

Question 6: Please rate each element of the Agenda structure as Just Right, Inadequate or Excessive 7

Question 7: Please rate the following from Extremely to Not Very 9

Question 8: This year, the AHM and science workshop were scheduled consecutively rather than concurrently as last year. Which do you prefer? 10

Comments or suggestions not captured above 11

Conclusion..... 15

Appendix A: Previous AHM Survey Results..... 16

Appendix B: Year-to-Year Response Comparisons 16



LSST2015 Project & Community Workshop Survey Results

Executive Summary

The LSST2015 Project and Community Workshop was held August 17-21, 2015 at the Kitsap Conference Center in Bremerton, Washington. 226 participants registered for the workshop; 118 attendees took the survey. Not all survey participants completed every question. Some questions allowed respondents to choose more than one answer.

| |
|---|
| ATTENDANCE |
| 80% identified as members of the Project technical team |
| Science Collaboration/science workshop attendance decreased (6% & 14%) |
| EXPERIENCE |
| 72% rated the meeting "Extremely" or "Quite a Bit" Productive |
| 83% rated the meeting "Extremely" or "Quite a Bit" Enjoyable |
| 89% were "Extremely" or "Quite a Bit" likely to attend LSST2016 |
| SETTING |
| 95% rated Meeting Venue "Great" or "Good" |
| 91% rated Accommodations "Great" or "Good" |
| 21% rated Ease of Travel to Bremerton "Poor" or "Awful" |
| 18.5% dissatisfied with distribution of attendees among multiple hotels |
| AGENDA BALANCE |
| 89% rated Plenary Sessions Quantity "Just Right" |
| 83% rated Breakout Sessions Quantity "Just Right" |
| 77% rated Downtime for Discussion "Just Right" |
| 77% rated overall Length of Meeting "Just Right" |
| 60% prefer Consecutive AHM and science workshop |
| AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT |
| Earlier final agenda |
| Less full agenda |
| Balance charm of setting with ease of accessibility |

In general, survey participants reported a good experience. Attendees favorably rated the basic agenda structure, venue, accommodations, and food. A large majority rated the meeting both productive and enjoyable and are likely to attend LSST2016. However, a significant minority were dissatisfied with the added travel time required between the airport and venue and the need to have attendees distributed among multiple hotels. As in years past, the meeting continues to suffer from fullness of schedule that hinders informal collaboration.

At the conclusion of LSST2014, in order to address long-standing requests to rotate the meeting's location among LSST partners, the Project asked the University of Washington to host LSST2015. The local organizing committee from UW selected

Bremerton as the meeting location. Although most respondents appreciated the charm of the harbor-side setting and the enthusiastic support of the local community, the venue was approximately two (2) hours from the Seattle airport using public transportation or the airport shuttle service. And as no single hotel in Bremerton possessed the room capacity to accommodate everyone, attendees were distributed among three primary hotels. One of those was a 13 minute drive from the conference center. Finding the proper balance between a more remote, picturesque setting like Bremerton and the more stark accessibility offered by downtown Phoenix (LSST2014) remains a challenge.

While fullness of schedule remained a concern for many respondents, a number of whom commented that the tightly scheduled agenda hindered the kind of informal interaction they find to be the most valuable aspect of the meeting, overall satisfaction with the agenda's balance dramatically improved



compared to 2014. The “Just Right” and “Excessive” scores for Breakouts Quantity each improved by about 30%, and the Downtime for Discussion “Inadequate” rating improved by 9%. One contributing factor to the improvements may have been the switch to holding the AHM and companion science workshop consecutively rather than concurrently as was the case in 2014. In the LSST2014 survey, the concurrent science workshop was frequently cited as a major cause of frustration, and only 44% of respondents supported having a concurrent science workshop at future meetings. This year when asked if at future meetings the AHM and science workshops should be Consecutive, Concurrent or Separated Entirely, 60% voted for Consecutive.

The Project will hold LSST2016 in Tucson the week of August 15. The organizing committee will give preference to a venue with sufficient rooms to accommodate all attendees in one hotel. Also, an effort will be made to finalize the meeting agenda well in advance of the meeting’s start and to reserve unscheduled time in the agenda in order to facilitate greater informal interaction.

LSST2015 Project & Community Workshop Survey Results

Background and Introduction

The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) will be a large-aperture, wide-field, ground-based telescope designed to obtain sequential images of the entire visible sky every few nights. From its home on Cerro Pachón in northern Chile, the LSST will conduct a 10-year survey to deliver a 200-petabyte set of images and data products that will address some of the most pressing questions about the structure and evolution of the Universe and the objects in it, including

- Understanding Dark Matter and Dark Energy
- Hazardous Asteroids and the Remote Solar System
- The Transient Optical Sky
- The Formation and Structure of the Milky Way

The LSST Project Office (LSSTPO), an independent AURA center, is responsible for managing the LSST construction project – a partnership between the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). At the end of construction, the LSST project will have delivered an 8.4-meter aperture telescope; all required support facilities; a 3.2-gigapixel camera; a supercomputing and data storage facility in La Serena, Chile; offices for Chile-based staff; and a data archive center at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. As lead agency, the NSF funds the LSSTPO and is responsible for the telescope and site facilities, the data management system, and the education and public outreach infrastructure. The DOE, through a consortium of national laboratories led by SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, is responsible for providing the camera. Through the LSSTPO, the LSST construction project is managed as a single coordinated effort.

The LSST2015 Project and Community Workshop was held August 17-21, 2015 at the Kitsap Conference Center in Bremerton, Washington. Essentially an all hands meeting (AHM), LSST2015 was a week-long workshop allowing both technical discussions between members of the teams involved in building LSST and interaction between project personnel and members of the broader community. Scheduled sessions were intended to focus on topics of cross-cutting significance and interest. Also, for the second consecutive year, the Project shared space and logistical support with a science workshop, the Observing Strategy Workshop. Bremerton was chosen as the meeting locale by the local organizing committee from the University of Washington. At the conclusion of LSST2014, in order to address a long-standing requests to rotate the meeting's location among LSST partners, the Project asked UW to host LSST2015. For more information about LSST2015, including the agenda and presentations, visit <https://project.lsst.org/meetings/lstt2015/>.



Survey Results

226 participants registered for the workshop. 118 attendees (52%) took the survey, compared to a 51% survey completion rate from LSST2014. Not all survey participants completed every question. Some questions allowed more than one answer.

Question 1: Name

Summary: Names have not been published in order to maintain anonymity of responses.

Question 2: What LSST groups are you part of?

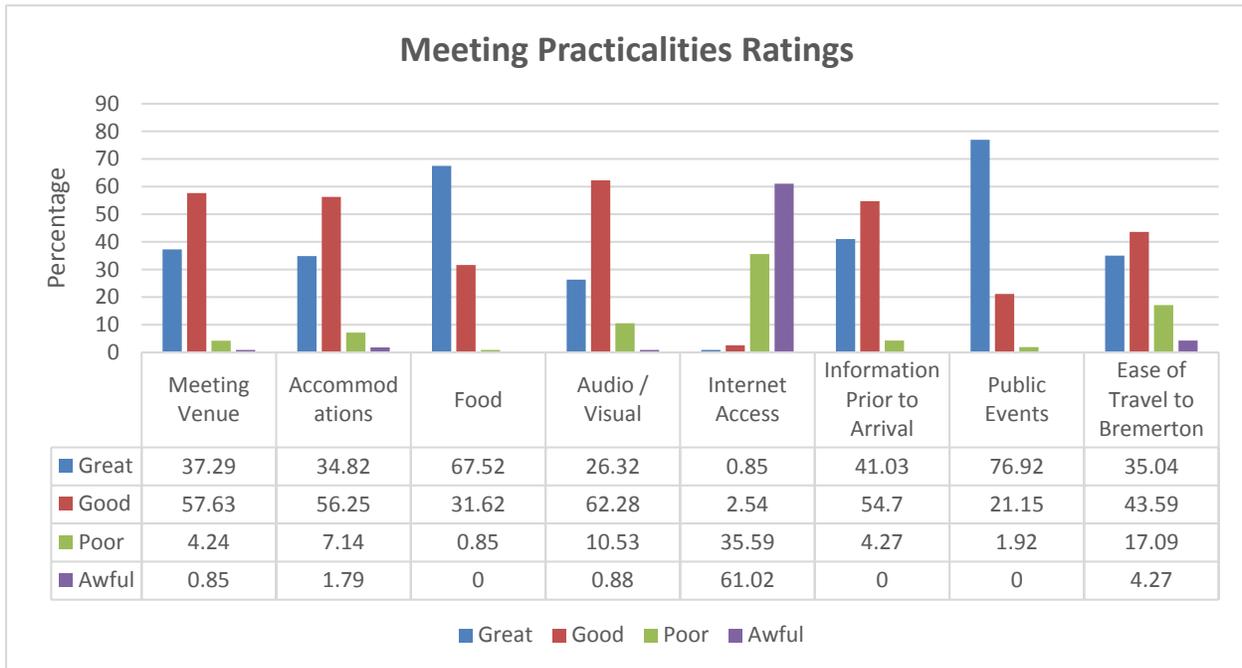
Summary: More than 80% of respondents identified as members of the **Project technical team**, a 10% increase from LSST2014. Attendance by **Science Collaboration** members and **science workshop** attendees decreased 6% and 14%, respectively.

Respondents were allowed to select more than one answer, so for example, some project team members who also belong to science collaborations may have selected that group as well, and some project team members and most of the Science Collaboration members also attended the concurrent Observing Strategy Workshop. Free-form answers and clarifications of the **Not Specified or None** responses have been incorporated into the chart above. Among notable such responses, two attendees self-identified as members of the LSST Safety Council.

| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----|
| Data Management | 24.35% | 28 |
| Science Collaboration Member | 24.35% | 28 |
| Camera | 19.13% | 22 |
| Observing Strategy Workshop Attendee | 18.26% | 21 |
| Telescope and Site | 12.17% | 14 |
| Project Management Office | 9.57% | 11 |
| Systems Engineering | 6.96% | 8 |
| EPO | 4.35% | 5 |
| Simulations | 4.35% | 5 |
| LSSTC | 4.35% | 5 |
| Not Officially LSST Yet | 2.61% | 3 |
| Not Specified or None | 2.61% | 3 |
| AURA | 0.87% | 1 |
| Federal Agency Representative | 0% | 0 |
| Total Respondents: 115 | | |

Question 3: Please rate the meeting practicalities, from Great to Awful

Summary: Respondents were asked to rate **Meeting Venue, Accommodations, Food, Audio/Visual, Internet Access, Information Prior to Arrival, Public Events, and Ease of Travel to Bremerton** on a scale of “Great” (1) to “Awful” (4). 118 respondents answered the question. Not all categories received a rating from all respondents. With the exception of **Internet Access**, the weighted average rating across categories was 1.91 or better, consistent with previous AHMs.



Public Events and **Food** were particularly well-received, rated 76.92% “Great” and 67.52% “Good,” respectively. The Project’s bad luck with internet connectivity continued; 114 of 118 of respondents rated **Internet Access** as “Poor” (35.59%) or “Awful” (61.02%). LSSTPO IT staff spent a significant amount of the meeting working with the conference center’s contractor and service provider to resolve the problem. An area of improvement from LSST2014 was **Information Prior to Arrival**, which last year was rated “Poor” by 11% of attendees but received “Great” or “Good” from 95% of respondents this year.

While the **Meeting Venue** and **Accommodations** rated well (95% and 91% “Great” or “Good,” respectively), a number of respondents were displeased by the fact that attendees were spread out among multiple hotels, and for those who stayed at the Baymont Inn, the distance from the conference center (a 13-minute one-way drive) was an issue. Unfortunately, no single hotel in Bremerton possessed the room capacity to accommodate all attendees.

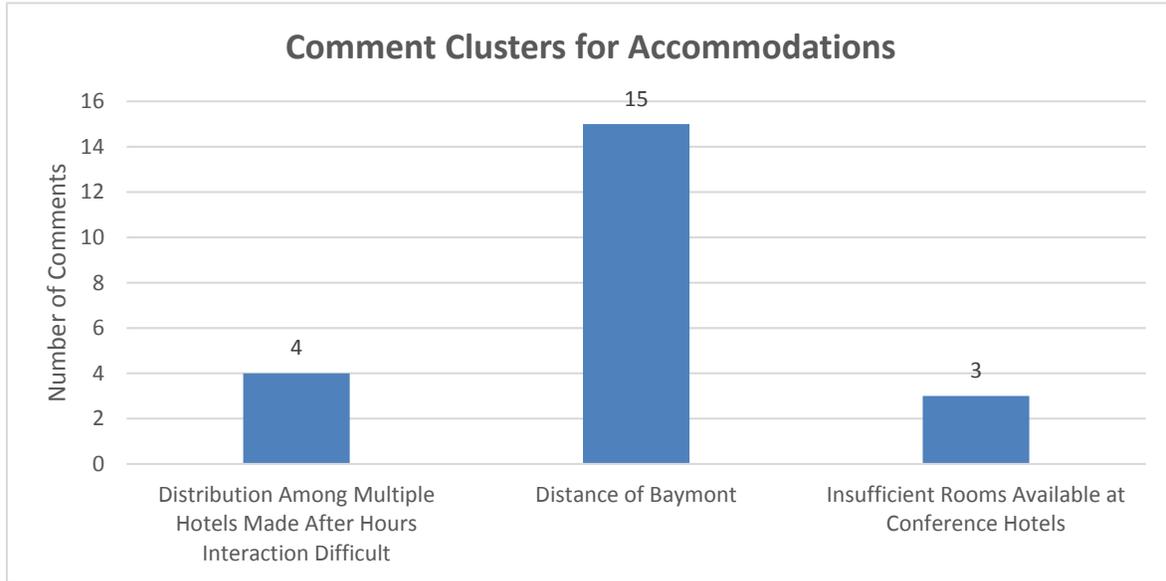
Finally, 17% of respondents rated **Ease of Travel to Bremerton** “Poor;” 4% rated it “Awful.” The venue was approximately two (2) hours from the Seattle airport using public transportation or the airport shuttle service. So, while respondents overwhelmingly appreciated the venue once there, more than one-fifth disapproved of the extra travel leg required to get from the airport to Bremerton.

Representative Sample of Public Events Comments:

- Hats off to Bob Abel for organizing an amazing series of public events! This was the highlight of the meeting, I thought. The enthusiasm of an excellent public event program is also infectious, and makes the technical and scientific part of the meeting stronger as a result.
- The public events were of great quality and were a wonderful way to connect to our hosts in

Bremerton. I found this a wonderful idea.

- Heard great comments but I did not have time to attend any.



Representative Sample of **Venue** and **Accommodations** Comments:

- Beautiful, if a bit remote.
- The hotel I stayed at was perfectly fine and within walking distance of the conference center, but I felt having the group distributed among three (or more hotels) made informal after hours discussion more challenging.
- Hotels all separate made evening discussions impractical. Our group couldn't hang out in the evening without the inconvenience of driving back to the Baymont.
- Good, but the far-away hotels were less good than managing to get everyone in one place, which I feel helps a lot with team building etc.
- The Baymont Inn was abysmal, on top of being very far from the main venue.
- Would be best to have everyone at one hotel, either by walking distance from the meeting site, or hold the meeting at the hotel (e.g., AHM 2012 at Dove Mountain).

Representative Sample of **Ease of Travel** Comments:

- Considering the complexity, it was actually very easy. Good information prior helped a lot.
- The trip went smoothly but it was long (I was coming from Chile!)
- Not ideal to have the location be a two-hour light-rail/ferry ride from airport. Location should be more convenient for participants. Phoenix was a good example of a convenient location.

Question 4: Did the LSST Travel Administrator coordinate your trip?

Summary: The LSST Travel Administrator coordinated travel for slightly less than 43% of the 117 respondents who answered the question.

Question 5: If the Travel Administrator coordinated you trip, please rate her service

Summary: The Travel Administrator received only “Great,” “Good,” and “Satisfactory” ratings.

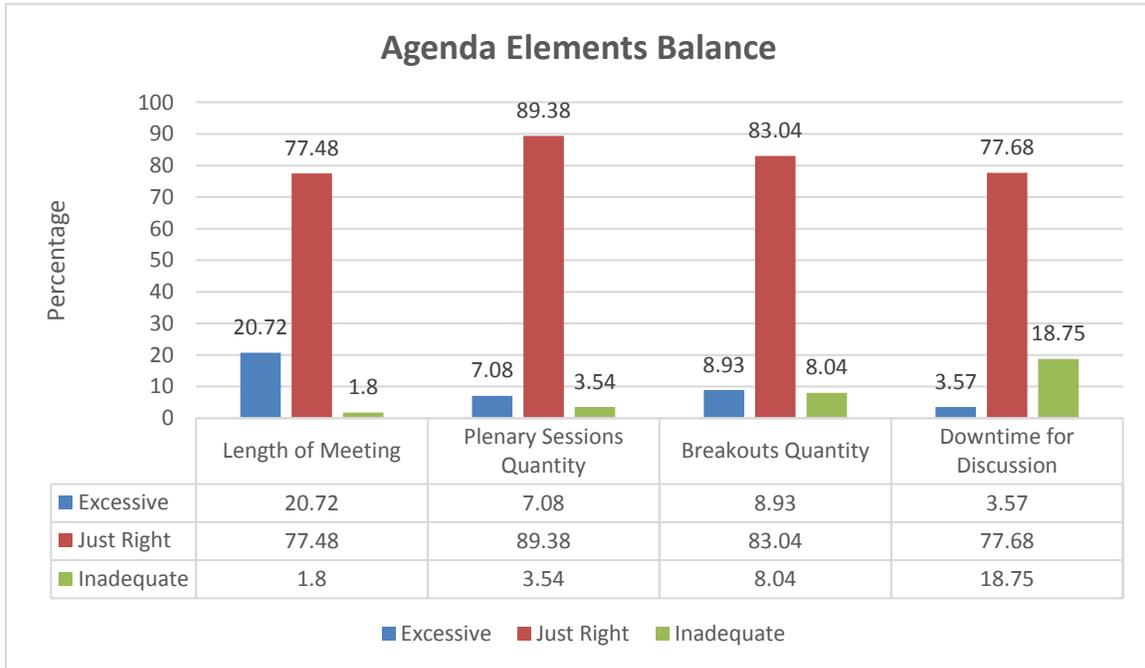
| | Great | Good | Satisfactory | Poor | Awful |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|--------------|--------|--------|
| Service of LSST Travel Administrator | 62% (31) | 16% (13) | 12% (6) | 0% (0) | 0% (0) |
| Total Respondents: 50 | | | | | |

Representative Sample of Comments:

- The travel administrator did a good job and kept everyone informed.
- Laurie helped me set up my trip and was always easy to work with and available.
- Laurie arranged and provided for everything I needed.
- Excellent given number of travellers.

Question 6: Please rate each element of the Agenda structure as Just Right, Inadequate or Excessive

Summary: The consensus among respondents was that the agenda balance was “Just Right.” **Plenary Sessions Quantity** ratings were virtually unchanged from the 2012 and 2014 surveys. Satisfaction with the number of **Breakouts** improved dramatically from LSST2014. The “Just Right” score increased by nearly 30%, and the “Excessive” rating decreased by 30%. This improvement is particularly notable as the “Excessive” ratings had more than doubled between 2012 and 2014. **Downtime for Discussion** also improved with a 9% decrease in “Inadequate” rating compared to 2014; however, the heavily scheduled agenda remained an oft-commented on area of concern. For the first time, **Length of Meeting** was included as an element for this question; 20% of respondents thought the six (6) days (including the Observing Strategy Workshop) was too long.



Notable Comments

- For the few people who had to stay all 6 days, it was pretty long. However, I think the majority of people were only there for a fraction of the time. So saying it is "excessive" is probably unfair.
- I would have put that it is somewhere between excessive and just right. It was a little long but there is so much to cover.
- It was too long. People started petering out mid-week and the quality of the breakout sessions diminished as days passed. The Wednesday afternoon plenary about project communication and culture would have been a great note to end on.
- This year, it felt just about right, as opposed to too long in past years (having the main workshop last three days rather than five was helpful). However, starting on Monday morning means having to travel on Sunday, and for those of us that stayed all week, it also meant having to fly home the next weekend. That resulted in the equivalent of a whole weekend lost to business travel. I don't mind losing a day here or there occasionally, but losing 2 off days in the span of a week is a bit tough.
- It is always good to start the day with a plenary session.
- Future meetings should have downtime scheduled for an afternoon.
- More unstructured time for informal meetings would have been better. I would have rather seen that come out of the breakout time.
- If the purpose was to provide focused time to work as a group or with other parts of the group then I felt there wasn't really time for this. There was informal time over lunch or dinner for

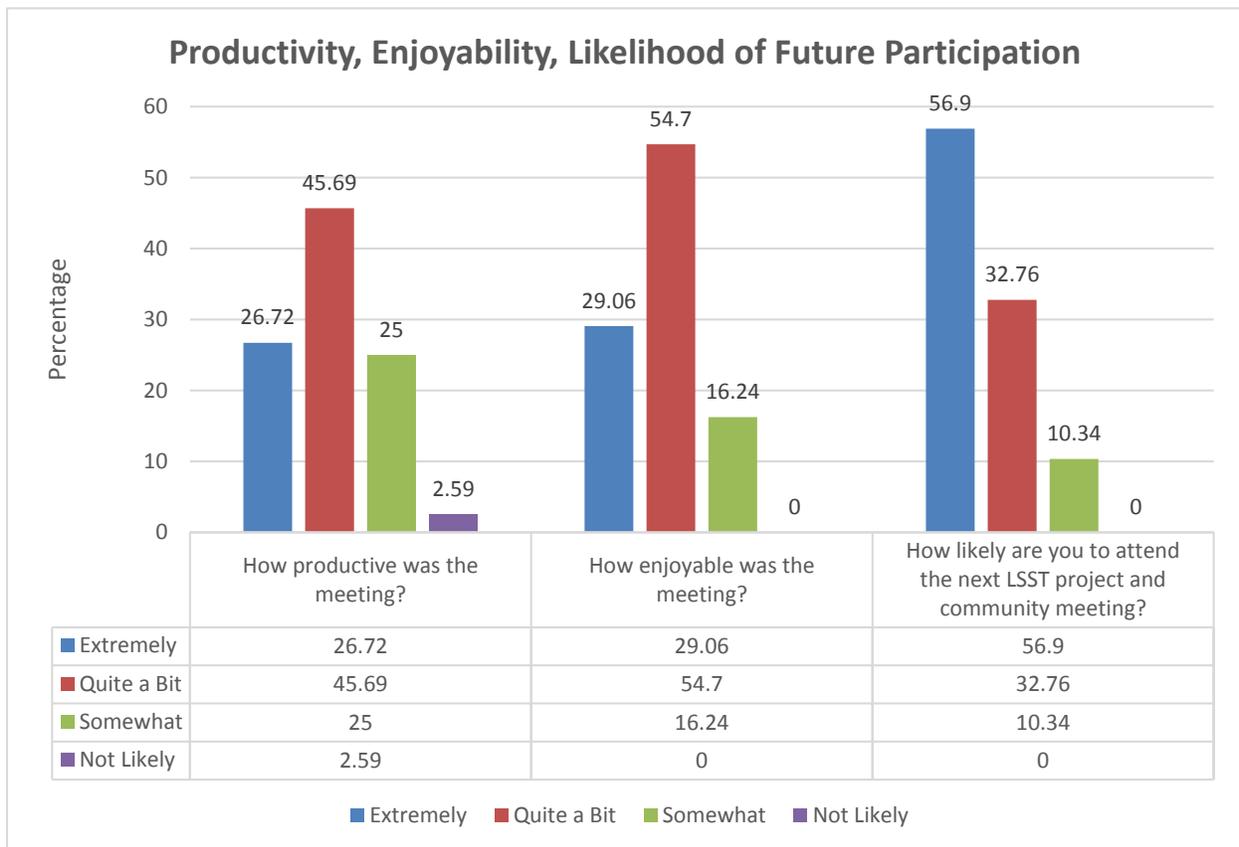
discussions

- As usual, too much going on all at once.

Question 7: Please rate the following from Extremely to Not Very

Summary: More than 72% of respondents found the meeting “Quite a bit” or “Extremely” **Productive**; more than 83% found it “Quite a Bit” or “Extremely” **Enjoyable**; 89% are “Quite a Bit” or “Extremely” **Likely to attend the next meeting**.

Favorable **Enjoyable** ratings improved 6% compared to 2014, recovering the previous decline from 2012. Favorable **Likely to attend the next meeting** ratings remained consistent with previous meetings’ survey results. Favorable **Productive** ratings declined nearly 10% compared to 2014, which was itself a 4% decline from 2012. As in 2012 and 2014, survey respondent’s comments reflected dissatisfaction with the fullness of schedule and inadequate amount of time for informal collaboration. This may be helped by the decision to hold a separate technical workshop for the Project team in February in Tucson, alleviating some of the schedule pressure from the AHM.



Notable Comments:

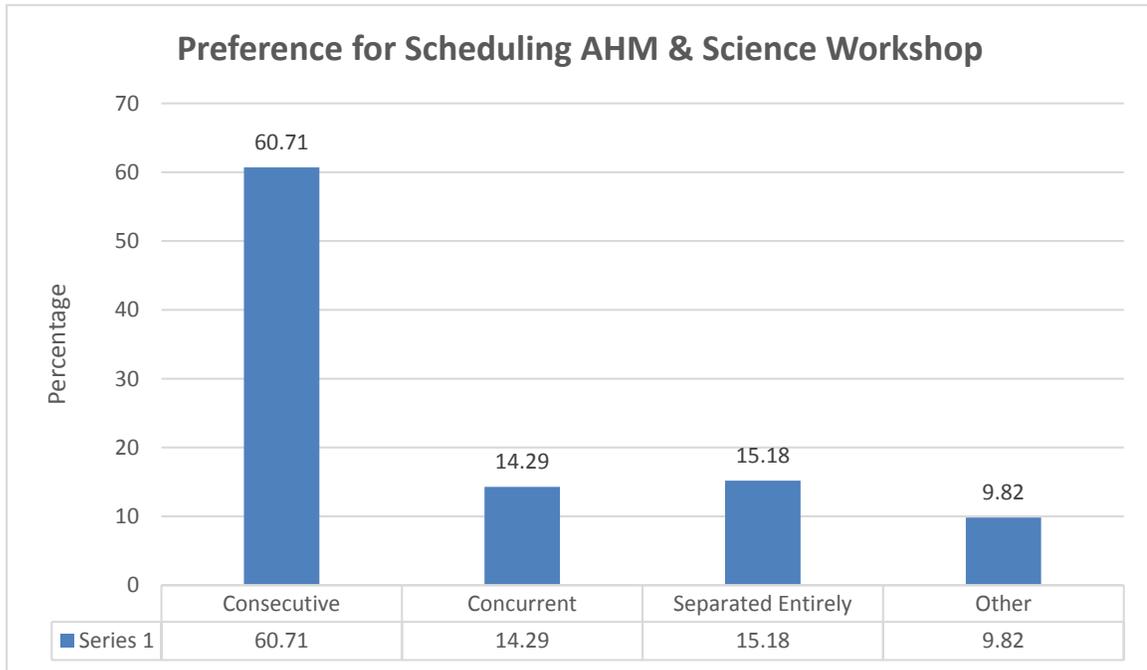
- These meetings are super-useful for the collaboration, and are a key way to break down barriers: between subsystems, between project and corporation, between them and the scientific community, etc.
- The problem with these meetings is that in breakout sessions that are intended to be working meetings, inevitably there are attendees that show up that are not familiar with the topic of discussion that demand an overview and recap of what's been previously accomplished. That takes away valuable time from the limited amount of time allocated to a session. I think having a separate Technical Meeting in February should help with this issue. As long as we have two major meetings a year, then I have no problem using the summer meeting as more of a communication mechanism to the broader community. I think we're headed in the right direction with the announcement of the second meeting. I'm encouraged by all of the positive developments that were implemented this year at the AHM in terms of format and the announcement of a technical meeting in February.
- It was more productive the first few days because energy is high, but with the issues with internet (I didn't have a connection all of Wednesday and half of Thursday), and the disorganization of the Cadence Workshop, I felt like I had spent 7 full days (8 am to 9 pm) and still needed to come back to work and catch up.
- This year was the best of the 3 that I have been to.

Question 8: This year, the AHM and science workshop were scheduled consecutively rather than concurrently as last year. Which do you prefer?

Summary: In 2014, the **Concurrent Science Workshop** was frequently cited as a major cause of the overly subscribed scheduled, and only 44% of LSST2014 survey respondents supported having a **Concurrent Science Workshop** at future meetings. In response, the Project scheduled LSST2015 and the companion science workshop to occur consecutively. The adjustment seems to have improved satisfaction with the science workshop. This year when asked if at future meetings the AHM and science workshops should be **Consecutive**, **Concurrent** or **Separated Entirely**, 60% voted for **Consecutive** with 15% preferring they be **Separated Entirely**. A vocal minority expressed the opinion that the science workshop is a distraction from the purpose of the all hands meeting, making it less productive than in the past.

Notable Comments:

- This (Consecutive) is a good format. In the past, I felt like I was attending sessions that were really intended for internal project discussions, and I had nothing to contribute. I really like that these were separated into consecutive meetings; it made every session much more useful and rewarding.
- Concurrent is a bad idea. Separated entirely is also adequate and possibly preferable.



- Definitely consecutive or separated entirely. When they overlapped last year, it created too many conflicts for people, and both meetings suffered as a result. As a member of the technical team, we lost many of the project scientists that we needed in discussions.
- Consecutive if these must be linked, but I think these two meeting should be separated. I found the 3 days for project related things to be too short. This is perhaps caused by pent-up demand and maybe going to two project meeting per year will help.
- I think there needs to be an understood expectation. Seems the science people show up when the project people leave. If they are meant to have interaction time, then a day or two of "blending" should be fitted into the schedule, otherwise make them separate.
- Attendees themselves are often confused as to which portion of the meeting they "belong in."
- My preference would be to separate the meetings since I was feeling burned out by the time the project meeting was over. It was very useful, but energy consuming at the same time. I know that having separated meetings makes for logistical issues, so keeping the meetings concurrent would be fine.

Comments or suggestions not captured above

- My biggest complaint is that people tended to be clique-ish. If they don't recognize you, they ignore you, even if you say hi to them. That's pretty annoying. Well, what do you expect for a bunch of astronomers and engineers!

- Very pleased to see efforts being made by LSST to have a healthy work place environment and be inclusive! I know lots of people were complaining about it (probably not in a public sense) but I think it's important and should have some time dedicated to it.
- I wanted to thank the organizers for their help about daycare. However, not everyone had the chance to come for the whole conference because of kids. It would be great for the next meetings to be able at least to coordinate between parents to organize activities for instance.
- Given our current monthly sprint timescales, expectations & obligations at the AHM for individuals & groups could have been provided with more lead time for proper planning.
- The emails sent by the Project regarding the last half of the week were confusing because some implied that the only event taking place during the last half of the week was the survey strategy workshop. A key email to rectify this went to only the Science Collaboration Chairs. However, some chairs were a bottle neck to getting the message out (sending it a couple of weeks late, only after being prompted to do so), and some science collaboration leaders were quite apathetic about participation in the LSST 2015 meeting, making it difficult for SC members who really value interaction with the project to drum up a critical mass of attendees at this meeting. Perhaps each SC chair could be asked to identify someone who has attended past LSST meetings and plans to attend the 2016 meeting to serve on an organizing committee for the LSST 2016 meeting, rather than depending on SC chairs who do not attend the annual LSST meetings or who are too busy to think about planning for the meeting.
- None. I'm a newbie, so I can't make any comparisons to previous workshops. I found everyone helpful and kind.
- Perhaps augment the cadence workshop with having UW experts providing one-on-one help with the MAF at the winter AAS meetings in the LSST booth.
- I think that 2 all-hands meetings / year would be very useful.
- I found the contents of the plenaries odd; they were mostly (for the first three days) very specific to project employees, not the broader collaboration (e.g. handling how to update your information was probably not best covered in a room with 200 people). However, they got better and it was great to see a diversity focus. I thought the DM team did a good job of being detailed enough for experts but broad enough for the rest of us.
- Attendance from science collabs was limited, including DESC. Would be good to have better representation.
- I liked being in an interesting or beautiful environment but it was not easy to get to this particular location, and the town, while pleasant was lacking in good restaurants. People complained they did not like the Phoenix meeting - which was very accessible, but the part of town it was in was not especially enjoyable. There are resorts and places with more appealing grounds in Phoenix which are also close the airport - this might be a viable option.
- UWLSST and LSST Communications were extremely supportive in the development of the

Bremerton EPO events.

- This year was the best of the 3 AHM's that I have been to. I really, really liked the venue. It provided a lot of pleasant space to work both inside and outside. The food and staff were very good. They all were friendly and helpful. Little touches such as coffee all day, food served early and removed late, water and coke always available were all outstanding. The wifi was weak but I am sure that could be improved. We should return there for future meetings.
- I would like to add one more comment that ties into the Communications and Workplace Culture discussion that we had at the conference. I applaud the project's management team for taking communications and workplace culture seriously. The fact that we're even talking about it means that there is at least some level of awareness of the issues, which many companies don't even acknowledge. However, I also saw many examples during the conference where what was preached in the culture discussion did not translate into practice, even with respect to the community outreach done in Bremerton, etc. For example, I read an article about the AHM in the local Kitsap newspaper, and it talked about there being over 200 astronomers that were going to descend on Bremerton for a meeting. It categorized, basically, all attendees as astronomers. The reporter obviously didn't make this up; he/she had to have been given that information from someone on the project. I heard from various sources that we probably had around 220-230 attendees at the AHM. I know many of us that attended were technical members of the team, and we were basically overlooked. I attended one of the public talks at the SEEFilm theater, and the speaker again stated to the audience that the purpose of the AHM meeting was for astronomers to get together and figure out how to operate the telescope and improve the cadence strategy. She acknowledged that the astronomers need the help of computer scientists, but that's the extent to which she characterized the team. I feel like we are inappropriately communicating to the public that this project is the result of the collective effort of astronomers and a few computer scientists. It does us a disservice to ignore the technical team. First, it provides an inaccurate picture to the community of what it takes to design, build, and operate an observatory of this level of complexity, and secondly, it diminishes the importance of the work being performed by the technical team. These sorts of messages that are promoted by the project tell us that engineers, technicians, and administrative staff are not as important as the scientists. It essentially creates a second class status for everyone that isn't an astronomer or scientist on the project. As an engineer, I've experienced this bias since I've started on the project, and I believe it's fairly hypocritical of the project to promote diversity and inclusion while being very complicit in perpetuating this story that the project is only comprised of astronomers and that scientists are more important than everyone else.
- The idea of a drinks ticket czar should have been a non-starter. Please don't do that again; include them with the conference id badges as in prior years.
- I felt bad for the folks who got stuck in the far away hotel.
- A printed agenda is very useful. Recommend providing one at the next meeting.
- Since our headquarters is in Tucson, and more people who work on the project live in Tucson

than any other place, it is a waste of time and resources to have this meeting at other remote locations.

- I would rotate the place of the venue among the cities of the project partners like this year in Washington instead of doing it in Tucson every year.
- Last year, I praised the introductory nature of the plenary sessions as a good way of bringing the team together. This year... not so much. As we're staffing up, we're bringing on a lot of generally more junior new team members, who are motivated by the science and technology behind LSST, but have little to no interest in the administrative structure of the LSST Corporation or the details of Systems Engineering's acceptance criteria. That's not to say that those things aren't important to the project as a whole -- of course they are -- but please do consider what the majority of the audience is expected to get from these sessions.
- I understand the last minute agenda changes, but it created many agenda conflicts which could have been avoided. I appreciate that leaders stressed on diversity and inclusiveness. A breakout session of DM tutorial, as in 2014, would be nice.
- The LOC did a great job. They don't get enough credit.
- I think we need a better system for people uploading their talks in the meeting. As it is, in many sessions it wasn't done at all and there is now is no record of the talks. In one of my sessions where I was a speaker I didn't have enough permissions to even see the uploading interface. Also, it is hard to find talks when they are there because you have to drill down into the agenda. You can't just do a quick search on someone's name on a web page for example. The same is true of the web pages last year, so to find missing talks you need to go try to find things in DocuShare instead. In the last year I have given up several times and written people to get their talks via email. I suggest using something like Indico.
- The whole thing worked out really well.
- It's time for all meetings to abolish the conference photo – technology has moved on and it isn't very useful any more. Time to come up with a virtual digital conference photo of all attendees, and have a photographer take some informal photos during the meeting to post on the web instead.
- You are herding cats and doing a pretty good job.
- It was all nicely done. Thanks to everyone who worked on the meeting and made it so successful.
- I missed plenary talks on science topics (like the ones we had in Phoenix).
- A few thoughts: -I was a bit disappointed by the turnout from the LSST science community to this meeting. None of the science collaborations had enough of a critical mass to have a meeting of their own. I think this was partly my fault for not advertising it aggressively enough to the science collaborations. Having said that, we did have a decent turnout for the cadence workshop. -We have to get the dates for these meetings out to the project and to the science

collaborations as early as possible! Dates for various upcoming meetings were announced at this meeting; these should also be sent out by e-mail to lsst-projectandscience right away.

- The software meetings should be plenary as they need to reach as many people as possible.
- If there were only one Community meeting annually, I would complain that there was little technical recap of issues at the end of the meeting. The method for getting summaries from the breakouts was hit and miss.
- This was well-organized overall. Thank you!
- The Project meeting and the Observing Strategy meeting were completely different in terms of content, how they were run, and outcomes. The feedback from this survey on general "meeting" quality questions will therefore be limited in its utility.
- The meeting support crew from Tucson was awesome! Also, we need to somehow make sure that everyone understands that the problem with wireless was not the fault of our LSST IT team.
- The Agenda page on the web was really poorly designed. The formatting was fancy, but it required way too many clicks to figure out the what, when, where and who of each section. In some cases it was impossible to know simple things like: "who is the chair of the session where I am speaking?", "where do I upload my talk?" or "who is speaking in this parallel session about calibrations?" I honestly like the old-fashioned Indico pages more. They look terrible, but they do capture all the information you need in a very practical "timetable" view: where/when is the session, who are the speakers, title of each talk, who is the chair of the session, slides of each talks, click here button to upload your talk. Also, most talks were not posted in the agenda. Having the slides for reference would be very useful. I suggest encouraging speakers to do that. List of participants: It would be useful to have the institution of each participant listed in the page somewhere. It would be useful to have emails too, but I understand that that may not be desirable. But if I know the name and institution, it is a lot easier to google for an email address and follow up on that discussion you had with someone over coffee.
- For those who must follow Gov't per diem rules (and different DOE labs apply them differently), the only option was the Baymont, which made transportation awkward.
- The agenda has to be locked down well in advance (several months!). As it was, I made travel plans only to see the agenda change afterwards.

Conclusion

In general, survey participants reported a good LSST2015 experience. Attendees favorably rated the basic agenda structure, the venue, accommodations, and food. A large majority rated the meeting both productive and enjoyable and are likely to attend future workshops. However, a significant minority felt the extra travel time between the airport and venue to be excessive, and as in years past, the meeting continues to suffer from fullness of schedule that hinders informal collaboration. While the change to a consecutive rather than concurrent science workshop was well received, the understanding of the

proper relationship between the project all hands meeting and a companion science workshop continues to evolve as vocal minority feels having the two meetings at the same time makes each less effective.

Recommendations

- Begin formal agenda planning earlier; finalize agenda well in advance of meeting start.
- Balance comfort of venue with accessibility.
- Limit the number of parallel sessions to no more the five at one time.
- Avoid concurrent science workshops.
- Schedule down-time blocks into the agenda.
- Experiment with non-traditional breakout session formats to facilitate informal interactions.

Appendix A: Previous AHM Survey Results

LSST2014 Survey ([Document-16766](#))

2012 AHM ([Document-13731](#))

2010 AHM (https://www.lsstcorp.org/sites/default/files/AHM_Survey_Report_Summary_Sept_24_2010.pdf)

Appendix B: Year-to-Year Response Comparisons

The following charts compare responses across the AHM surveys for those questions represented in all of the surveys.

| Year | Number of Attendees | Number of Survey Responses | Percentage |
|------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| 2010 | Not recorded | 84 | ? |
| 2012 | 267 | 144 | 54% |
| 2014 | 237 | 121 | 51% |
| 2015 | 226 | 118 | 52% |

