



# Users Committee Kick-Off Meeting

Tue Mar 1 2022, 9am US Pacific

Presented by  
the Rubin Observatory Community Engagement Team



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

# Purpose and Agenda

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## Agenda:

- Introductions
  - Science Advisory Committee (SAC)
  - Community Engagement Team (CET)
  - Rubin Data Production and System Performance
  - Rubin Operations Directorship
  - Users Committee & Chair
  - Who are “the Users”?
- Charge to the Users Committee
- UC Webpage & Communications
  - Community Forum Tour
- Rubin Science Platform and Data Preview 0
- User Interaction Scenarios
- Proposed 2022 UC Timeline
- UC Closed Session (if time and if desired)

# Welcome and Introductions

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First, the following Rubin teams, and their connections to the Users Committee:

- Science Advisory Committee (Michael Strauss)
- Community Engagement team (CET)
  - *the CET is within the Rubin System Performance department (RPF)*
- The Rubin System Performance / Data Production Departments
- Rubin Directorship (Bob Blum)

Second, the Users Committee members do a round-table of self-introductions:

- We will also cover the role of the Users Committee Chair

# Science Advisory Committee (SAC)

The Science Advisory Committee (SAC) provides a formal, and two-way, connection to the external science community served by the Rubin Observatory. Comprised of scientists familiar with but external to the Rubin Project, the SAC advises the Rubin Construction and Operations Directors on both policy questions and technical topics of interest to the Project and the science community.

Members of this committee, together with their institutions and e-mail addresses, are as follows:

- Franz Bauer (U. Catolica de Chile, [franz.e.bauer@gmail.com](mailto:franz.e.bauer@gmail.com)): AGN
- Rachel Bean (Cornell; [rbean@astro.cornell.edu](mailto:rbean@astro.cornell.edu)): Cosmology
- Federica Bianco (U. Delaware; [fbianco@udel.edu](mailto:fbianco@udel.edu)): Transients and variables
- Niel Brandt (PSU; [niel@astro.psu.edu](mailto:niel@astro.psu.edu)): AGN
- Márcio Catelan (U. Catolica de Chile, [mcatelan@astro.puc.cl](mailto:mcatelan@astro.puc.cl)): Stars and Stellar Populations
- Mansi Kasliwal (Caltech; [mansikasliwal@gmail.com](mailto:mansikasliwal@gmail.com)): Transients
- David Kirkby (UC Irvine; [dkirkby@uci.edu](mailto:dkirkby@uci.edu)): Cosmology
- Charles Liu (AMNH/Staten Island, [cliu@amnh.org](mailto:cliu@amnh.org)): Galaxies and AGN
- Meg Schwamb (Gemini; [mschwamb.astro@gmail.com](mailto:mschwamb.astro@gmail.com)): Solar System
- Joshua Simon (Carnegie, [jsimon@obs.carnegiescience.edu](mailto:jsimon@obs.carnegiescience.edu)): Milky Way structure
- Stephen Smartt (Queens Belfast, [s.smartt@qub.ac.uk](mailto:s.smartt@qub.ac.uk)): Supernovae
- Anže Slosar (Brookhaven, [anze@bnl.gov](mailto:anze@bnl.gov)): Cosmology, LSS
- Michael Strauss (Princeton; [strauss@astro.princeton.edu](mailto:strauss@astro.princeton.edu)) - Chair: Galaxies and LSS
- Lucianne Walkowicz (Adler Planetarium; [lwalkowicz@adlerplanetarium.org](mailto:lwalkowicz@adlerplanetarium.org)): Variables
- Risa Wechsler (Stanford; [rwechsler@stanford.edu](mailto:rwechsler@stanford.edu)): Cosmology

The UC's contact point is the chair of the SAC, Michael Strauss.



# Community Engagement Team (CET)

The CET engages users in science with the Rubin Observatory LSST by providing documentation and tutorials; coordinating expertise to resolve issues; and building an inclusive, self-supporting community.

Our Community Engagement Model can be found in [rtn-006.lsst.io](https://rtn-006.lsst.io).

The CET will guide and facilitate the meetings, activities, and reports of the **Users Committee**.



**Melissa Graham**

University of Washington  
Lead Community Scientist  
*Time-domain surveys, supernovae, photo-z.*



**Greg Madejski**

SLAC/Stanford (KIPAC)  
Community Scientist  
*AGN, lensed quasar cosmology.*



**James Annis**

Fermilab  
Community Scientist  
*Cosmology, grav. waves, astronomical surveys.*



**Jeff Carlin**

AURA/NOIRLab  
Community Scientist  
*Galactic structure, stellar pops, dwarf galaxies.*



**Alex Drlica-Wagner**

Fermilab/UChicago  
Community Scientist  
*Cosmology, dark matter/energy, imaging surveys.*



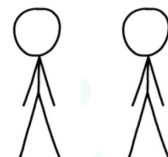
**Tina Adair**

SLAC/Stanford  
Community Documentation  
*Stellar populations, planetary formation.*



**Brian Nord**

Fermilab  
Community Scientist for Citizen Science  
*Cosmology, artificial intelligence, EPO.*



+4 soon to join us:

- IDEA postdoc, w/ NOIRLab CSDC
- Community Scientists @ NOIRLab
- UAT Specialist @ SLAC



# Rubin Data Production & System Performance

We represent the large team of Rubin staff who are building the Data Management System (which includes the Rubin Science Platform and the LSST Science Pipelines), processing and serving data, and providing technical support and expertise to the users, which the **Users Committee** will be representing.



Leanne Guy



Simon Krughoff




KT Lim



Colin Slater



Frossie  
Economou



Tim Jenness



Hsin-Fang Chiang




Jim Bosch



Yusra AlSayyad



Gregory  
Dubois-Felsmann



Wil O'Mullane



Fritz Mueller

# Rubin Operations Directorship



Operations Director  
Robert Blum  
Rubin Observatory/NSF's NOIRLab



Deputy Director for Operations (NSF)  
Amanda Bauer  
Rubin Observatory/NSF's NOIRLab



Deputy Director for Operations (DOE)  
Phil Marshall  
SLAC

*The UC's reports will  
be delivered to the  
Rubin Operations  
directors.*

# Users Committee

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## UC Members

Igor Andreoni  
Dominique Boutigny  
Alessandra Corsi  
Matthew Holman  
Anja von der Linden  
Qingling Ni  
Markus Rabus  
Francisco Javier Sanchez Lopez  
V. Ashley Villar  
Matthew P. Wiesner  
Michael Wood-Vasey

(+1 TBD)

*Each of you please say a few words about,  
e.g., your career stage, geographical  
location, and science interests.*



# Chair of the Users Committee

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## Selection

- the first Chair was selected by the SAC (**Matthew Holman**)
- Users Committee members select future Chairs

## Term

- two years per term, for up to two terms

## Duties

- principal point of contact with the CET
- to arrange meetings, together with the CET
- ensure meeting minutes are prepared and posted publicly
- request the presence of Rubin staff members with particular expertise at meetings, as needed
  - the CET will help to identify them and arrange for their attendance
- serve as an ex officio member of the NOIRLab's Users Committee
- *coordinate the preparation of the UC's ~6 month reports*
  - *deliver the reports\* to the CET and the Rubin Director*

*\*Noting RDO-051 does not say this explicitly.*

# Who are “the Users”?

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**Rubin community:** anyone, anywhere, interacting with the Rubin Observatory and its data products and services, in any capacity.

**Science Community:** the subset of the *Rubin community* doing scientific analyses with the LSST data products and services.

**Science Collaboration members:** the subset of the *science community* who have joined one of the LSST Science Collaborations.

**Rubin Observatory staff:** the subset of the *Rubin community* who work for Rubin; many are active in the *science community* and are *Science Collaborations members*.

**Rubin data rights holders:** individuals with the right to access, analyze, and publish work on LSST proprietary data.

# Who are “the Users”?

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## **Broadly:**

Users = Science Community

## **Technically:**

Users are members of the science community who are data rights holders **and** who have accounts for the Rubin Science Platform (RSP).

Currently, this includes ~300 “DP0 Delegates” and ~30 active Stack Club members.

In 2022 we will add another 300 “DP0 Delegates” by July, and 50-100 members of the Commissioning Team (TBD).

# Done with introductions; questions?

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**Next: the charge to the Users Committee.**

# Charge to the Users Committee ([rdo-051.lsst.io](https://rdo-051.lsst.io))

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**Qualitative Goal:** to maximize the scientific productivity of the user community, while prioritizing equitable access and inclusive practices throughout the diverse user community.

## **The Rubin Users Committee is charged with**

- using the LSST data products and the Rubin Science Platform
- evaluating the data and services' ability to enable groundbreaking LSST science
- reviewing feedback from the community of LSST users
- meeting every ~6 months to raise issues and learn about development work
- recommending science-driven improvements via written reports every ~6 months

# Charge to the Users Committee ([rdo-051.lsst.io](https://rdo-051.lsst.io))

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## To illustrate the charge with details and examples:

- using the LSST data products and the Rubin Science Platform
  - *engage in the Data Previews, access and analyse LSST data*
- evaluating the data and services' ability to enable groundbreaking LSST science
  - *participate in User Acceptance Testing for the RSP*
- reviewing feedback from the community of LSST users
  - *solicited via surveys sent out to Rubin users*
  - *collected via interactions with users (forum, workshops)*
- meeting every ~6 months to raise issues and learn about development work
  - *topics can be raised by UC, CET, users, Rubin staff*
  - *meetings will be organized by CET & UC Chair*
- recommending science-driven improvements via written reports every ~6 months
  - *via written reports to the CET & the Rubin Director*



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# Charge to the Users Committee ([rdo-051.lsst.io](https://rdo-051.lsst.io))

***Regarding “collected via interactions with users (forum, workshops)”***

RDO-051 says:

*Users Committee members shall identify themselves as such when appropriate, e.g., in public forums or when discussing aspects of the Rubin Observatory with colleagues, so that their role is clear and they are visible and accessible to the broader community.*

*They shall agree to have their contact information posted and to receive correspondence from Rubin users.*

# Charge to the Users Committee ([rdo-051.lsst.io](https://rdo-051.lsst.io))

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## Membership

- 12 members
- one 2-year term each
  - *members may be asked to serve another year, for up to four years total, when needed*
- NOIRLab, SLAC, and Rubin Observatory employees are not eligible
- aim for diversity in representation
  - *geographic locations, affiliation type, career stage, race, gender, science interests*
- the SAC will replace members yearly via the same nomination-and-review process

# Charge to the Users Committee ([rdo-051.lsst.io](https://rdo-051.lsst.io))

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## Meetings

- at least twice yearly
  - *at least one virtual; there are travel funds for 1 face-to-face meeting / person / year*
  - *smaller topical meetings on an as-needed basis (e.g., survey design)*
- open to all Rubin users and staff
  - *closed meetings can be called for when needed*
- Lead Community Scientist (CET) and a Rubin leadership team rep will attend
  - *or their designee if they are unavailable*
  - *additional Rubin staff with particular expertise can be requested*
- topics for discussion to be suggested **in advance** by both Rubin staff and UC members
  - *e.g., the CET might request the UC review new RSP functionality, or survey results*
- “the Chair will ensure the meeting minutes are posted publicly” (RDO-051)
  - *e.g., a cleaned up version can be a new topic in the Community Forum*

# Charge to the Users Committee ([rdo-051.lsst.io](https://rdo-051.lsst.io))

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## Reports

- twice yearly
  - *exact timescales left to the discretion of the UC*
  - *would be natural to have reports come out ~1 month after the main twice-yearly meeting*
- can be short and **focused on recommendations**
  - *clearly prioritize what the UC thinks is most important*
- delivered by the UC Chair to the Rubin Director and the Lead Community Scientist
- PDF will be posted publicly
  - *e.g., stored in DocuShare, then linked from the UC webpage, new digests, Community Forum*
- CET will respond to these recommendations at subsequent UC meetings
  - *and/or on intermediate timescales when needed / possible*
  - *e.g., to indicate which recommendations the Observatory will be able to incorporate, and when*

# Charge to the Users Committee ([rdo-051.lsst.io](https://rdo-051.lsst.io))

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## Time Commitment

- no more than 20 working hours per semester (per 6 months)
- estimate 4 hours in meetings, and 4 hours preparing the report, per semester
- remaining 12 “service hours” might be spent on, for example:
  - *preparing and analyzing surveys of the user base*
  - *corresponding with users who contact them (e.g., replying to unsolicited feedback)*
  - *relaying emergent issues to the CET for follow-up*
  - *participating in User Acceptance Testing for the RSP*
- keep the Chair informed if UC participation becomes burdensome



# Done with the charge; questions?

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**Next: UC Webpage and Communications.**

# UC Webpage Final Review

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<https://www.lsst.org/scientists/users-committee>

Melissa will also post a “About the Rubin Users Committee” topic to the Rubin Community Forum today, which will link to that webpage.

*The website contents for the UC can be changed, as needed.*

*Links to meeting minutes and reports would be added here.*

# UC Communications

**Email List:** [RubinObs-Users-Committee@lists.lsst.org](mailto:RubinObs-Users-Committee@lists.lsst.org)

- all 12 UC members have been subscribed
- all 12 UC members can send to list without moderation
- any and all other emails to this list undergo moderation (by me)

*The communications methods for the UC can be changed, as needed.*

**LSSTC Slack:**  rubinobs-users-committee (private channel)

- “For discussions between members of the Rubin Users Committee”
- optional; all essential correspondence will go via email

**Community Forum Group:** [community.lsst.org/g/Users-Committee](https://community.lsst.org/g/Users-Committee)



- all 12 UC members have been added
- any forum user can message or @ mention this group
- email notifications about messages/mentions are optional
- recall the webpage also says UC “*members can be contacted individually via direct message in the Rubin Community Forum*”

# Community Forum Tour

All UC members should know how to use the Rubin Community Forum ([Community.lsst.org](https://community.lsst.org)).

The tour can wait until the end of the meeting.

The tour can review:

- homepage-accessible components
  - *banner, categories, sub-categories, tags, profile, search, messages*
- how to update your profile
  - *ensure users can send you direct messages*
    - profile pic → avatar symbol  → preferences → notifications
    - ☒ Allow other users to send me personal messages
  - *enable email notifications (if you want them)*
    - profile pic → avatar symbol  → preferences → email → set how you want
- flagging and moderation ([community.lsst.org/t/how-and-why-to-flag-a-post](https://community.lsst.org/t/how-and-why-to-flag-a-post))

# Done with communications; questions?

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**Next: Rubin Science Platform and the Data Previews.**

# Rubin Science Platform & Data Preview 0

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All UC members should be able to log in to the Rubin Science Platform: [data.lsst.cloud](https://data.lsst.cloud)

- *try logging in to both the Notebook and the Portal Aspects*

All UC members should review the slide deck “DP0.1, A Half-Year in Review” at [ls.st/clo6269](https://ls.st/clo6269).

All UC members should review the Data Preview 0.1 documentation: [dp0-1.lsst.io](https://dp0-1.lsst.io)

- *includes RSP instructions, DP0.1 tutorials, seminar schedule, catalog schemas, etc.*

Drop in to any future Delegate Assembly or Stack Club session

- *alternating Fridays, 9am US Pacific, in Zoom room [ls.st/cet-zoom](https://ls.st/cet-zoom)*
  - *schedule: [dp0-1.lsst.io/dp0-delegate-resources](https://dp0-1.lsst.io/dp0-delegate-resources)*
  - *calendar and connection info: [ls.st/dp0-events](https://ls.st/dp0-events)*
- *Delegate Assemblies are usually 1 hour presentation, then 1 hour breakouts*
- *Stack Club is a 2 hour co-working session that starts and ends with a stand-up/roundtable*
- *any CET member or Rubin staff there can answer questions about RSP/DP0*



# The timeline for DP0.2 and Commissioning.

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Early announcement of **Data Preview 0.2**: [ls.st/clo6191](https://ls.st/clo6191)

- Mar 1 2022: application form for DP0.2 opens
- Apr 30 2022: application form for DP0.2 closes
- May 30 2022: applicants are notified
- Jun 30 2022: DP0.2 data release
  - DP0.2 'kick-off' sessions for new delegates
  - DP0.2 is the reprocessed DC2 data, with difference imaging
- Oct 1 2022: DP0.2 delegate survey opens
- Oct 30 2022: DP0.2 delegate survey closes

**Data Preview 1** – *Release of ComCam data.* Mid-2023.

**Data Preview 2** – *Release of LSSTCam data.* Mid-2024.

# Done with RSP/DP0; questions?

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**Next: user interaction scenarios.**

# User Interaction Scenarios

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The Users Committee members will be high-visibility.

You might have members of the science community reach out to you for a wide variety of reasons.

It is not the role of the UC to provide user support or process harassment reports. But the information in the following slides will help you redirect such inquiries.

**It is also *completely fine* to simply redirect to the Lead Community Scientist.**

# If you receive reports of harassment

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This would be outside the scope of the UC, but here are some resources, just in case.

The Rubin Code of Conduct applies at all times: [ls.st/comms-coc](https://ls.st/comms-coc)

- take notes and maintain confidentiality
  - *unless it becomes a mandatory-reporting situation for you, of course*
- advise them to contact one of the Rubin Workplace Culture Advocates
  - [project.lsst.org/workplace-culture-advocate](https://project.lsst.org/workplace-culture-advocate)
  - *Sandrine Thomas volunteered to be the primary point-of-contact for DP0 Delegates*
- advise them to contact the ombuds of their LSST Science Collaboration
  - *e.g., DESC ombuds names can be found in the DESC confluence page*
  - *the Lead Community Scientist / Science Collaborations Coordinator can help identify ombuds*

If you experience or witness a violation of the COC in the Community Forum, *flag the post.*

- [community.lsst.org/t/how-and-why-to-flag-a-post](https://community.lsst.org/t/how-and-why-to-flag-a-post)
- [community.lsst.org/t/how-to-react-if-your-post-is-flagged](https://community.lsst.org/t/how-to-react-if-your-post-is-flagged)

# If you receive technical questions about Rubin

Please direct them to the appropriate category of the Rubin Community Forum.

- *Sometimes when people are really shy, questions can be posted on their behalf.*
- *Getting the category 'right' is not important, Forum admins can recategorize.*

## Category

Science - Data Q&A  
Science - Statistics Q&A  
Science - Survey Strategy  
Science - Alerts and Brokers  
Support  
Support - RSP  
Support - Data Preview 0  
Support - Lasair  
Meta

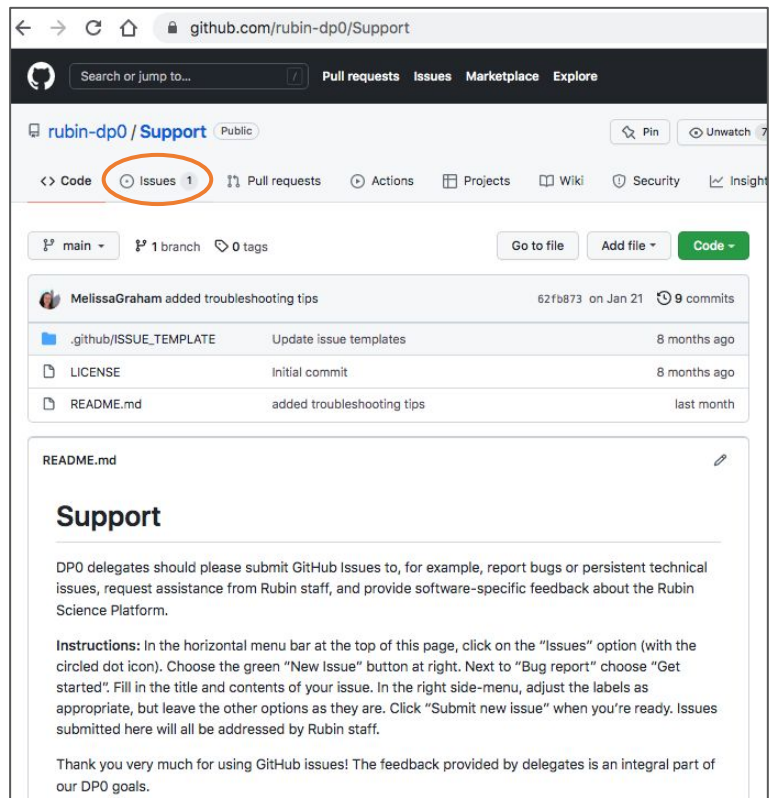
## Questions About...

the planned LSST data products  
statistical methods, big data  
survey simulations / optimization  
use of alerts and brokers  
using the LSST Science Pipelines  
using the Rubin Science Platform  
DP0 data, resources, tutorials  
using the Lasair broker  
how to use the Community Forum

## Primary Responders

Rubin staff  
Info/Stats SC  
Rubin Staff  
anyone  
Rubin staff  
Rubin staff  
Rubin staff  
Lasair staff  
Rubin staff

# If you receive bug reports or RSP access issues



Advise them to submit a GitHub Issue in the 'Support' repository of the rubin-dp0 Organization:

[github.com/rubin-dp0/Support](https://github.com/rubin-dp0/Support)

Instructions are in the README.md file for that repo.

Instructions are also available in the DP0.1 documentation:

[dp0-1.lsst.io/dp0-delegate-resources/index.html#technical-assistance-via-github-issues](https://dp0-1.lsst.io/dp0-delegate-resources/index.html#technical-assistance-via-github-issues)



# If you receive reports of *scientific concerns*

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## **The Users Committee would want to raise and discuss scientific concerns that:**

- the data products might be insufficient for certain science goals
- the RSP's functionality (or lack thereof) might inhibit certain scientific analyses
- the LSST Science Pipelines aren't useful for certain science goals
- insufficient documentation prohibits understanding / use of Rubin data
- the Rubin data and services are not equitably accessible to all scientists / students

# Done with user interactions; questions?

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**Next: the UC Timeline for 2022.**

# Proposed UC Timeline for 2022

early Apr 2022 UC Meeting?  
Apr 30 2022 UC “Report” 2022A?



*This would be a real UC discussion session about RSP and DP0, unlike today’s orientation session. The CET would present, e.g., the DP0.2 data sets and RSP capabilities.*

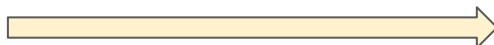
Jun 30 2022 DP0.2 Data Release

Aug 8-12 2022 Rubin Project and Community Workshop  
UC Face-to-Face meeting (with virtual option)

*Whether or not to write a first report on such a short timescale is left entirely to the discretion of the UC – but it would be welcome!*

Aug 2022 help CET design the DP0.2 Delegate Survey  
Sep 2022 survey is open for feedback  
Oct 2022 analyze survey results

early Oct 2022 UC Meeting  
Oct 30 2022 UC Report 2022B Due



*The timescale for the DP0.2 feedback survey sets the timing of the 2022B UC meeting and report.*

# Summary of Actions for UC Members

**TODAY: Decide if the proposed timeline is suitable, and if an April meeting/report is desired.**

## homework

Review the **Charge to the Users Committee**: [rdo-051.lsst.io](https://rdo-051.lsst.io)

- proposed amendments can be sent to Melissa
  - <https://jira.lsstcorp.org/browse/PREOPS-1058>
- any changes will be approved by SAC

**Community Forum** (*we could do a quick tour now, if time*)

- browse the forum to familiarize yourself with categories and tags
- review your profile settings and enable notifications
- forum tutorials are available
  - <https://community.lsst.org/t/user-tutorials-by-discobot-your-discourse-friend>

**Data Preview 0 / Rubin Science Platform**

- log in to the Rubin Science Platform ([data.lsst.cloud](https://data.lsst.cloud)), Notebook & Portal Aspects
- review documentation [dp0-1.lsst.io](https://dp0-1.lsst.io) and DP0.1 summary at [ls.st/clo6269](https://ls.st/clo6269)

# UC Closed Session

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If desired and if there is time now, everyone except UC members can leave.

Then, UC members could discuss anything they like.

If desired but there is NOT time now, the CET can help arrange this for later.

Whether in a closed session or not:

The UC should discuss the timeline and any urgent issues.

In particular whether to have their first real meeting & report in April 2022.