Resolutions Arising from the 16-17 May 2019 Gemini Board Meeting

Introduction

2019.A.1. The Board welcomes new Board members, Dr. Guillermo Bosch (Argentina), Dr. Cynthia Froning (US), Dr. Richard Green (US), Dr. Karen O’Neil (US), Dr. Gregory Rudnick (US), and Dr. Luc Simard (Canada). We look forward to their contributions over the coming years.

2019.A.2. The Board welcomes new STAC members Dr. Jane Charlton (US), Dr. Ryan Foley (US), Dr. Jae-Joon Lee (Korea), Dr. Damian Mast (Argentina), Dr. Henri Plana (Brazil), Dr. Lisa Poyneer (US), and thanks outgoing STAC members Dr. Thomas Barnes (US) and Dr. Andy Skemer (US) for their service.

2019.A.3. The Board recognizes the efforts of Dr. Richard Green and the NSF staff during the January 2019 U.S. government shutdown, and thanks them for their success in preventing major disruption to Gemini during this period.

STAC/Instrumentation

2019.A.4. The Board acknowledges the STAC recommended development priorities. The Board’s priority list is: GNAO and RTC, NGS2, SCORPIO, GHOST, GNAOI, IGRINS2, GIRMOS, ASM, GNIRS Controller, IUP, DM0. The Board reinforces its resolution 2018.B.9 that ASM requirements and flowdown be incorporated into the Gemini North Adaptive Optics (GNAO) design from the beginning. However, the Board does not wish additional work on the ASM to impact other, higher priority developments. The Board places NGS2 in a high priority position because a small amount of work should complete the implementation of this long-awaited system.

2019.A.5. The Board acknowledges the STAC recommendation to explore the feasibility of procuring a H4RG detector for GNAOI with a 5-micron cutoff. Given the new information on cost and risk that was presented to the Board (but was not yet available at the time of the STAC meeting), a 2.5-micron cutoff should be adopted.

2019.A.6. The Board endorses the proposed IGRINS MoU for an extended return visit. The Observatory is requested to ensure that the MOU respects proprietary data rights during the calibration and archiving of the pipeline data products.

2019.A.7. The Board endorses the GNAO and RTC Guiding Principles presented in the Development report, with the modification proposed by the STAC.

2019.A.8. The Board endorses the draft GNAOI Request for Proposals documentation for release. The Board instructs the Observatory to issue the RfP without a cost cap included, in order to ensure a realistic estimate of the true cost to build this instrument. The Board also asks that the language describing the role Gemini will play with respect to the detector procurement and handling, and associated liability issues be clarified.
2019.A.9. The Board congratulates Gemini and the GHOST team on the dramatically improved reports of progress and risk mitigation, but notes its concern that this instrument does not have a scientist in the role of Principal Investigator to champion the instrument through its commissioning. The Board strongly encourages the Observatory and the GHOST team to address this problem.

Science

2019.A.10. The Board approves the STAC recommended science time goals for semester 2020A of 93% on Gemini South and 96% on Gemini North, and the adjustment of science time for semester 2019B to 84% for Gemini South and 83% for Gemini North.

2019.A.11. The Board approves the final revision of the Strategic Science Plan for Gemini, and approves its publication on the Gemini website. The Board recognizes and appreciates the changes made to the document in response to previous suggestions.

2019.A.12. The Board endorses the Observatory's plan for the next Gemini Science meeting, to be held in Seoul, Korea in June 2020.

Finance


Other

2019.A.14. The Board notes the improved clarity of the details of the implementation of NCOA, and congratulates AURA, NSF, and the combined management and staff of the centers for their effective efforts. The Board intends to continue constructive discussions with AURA and Gemini on the implementation, to establish good mechanisms for communication with the NMOC, and to track the effectiveness of the new structure in carrying out the Gemini program.