



Gemini Observatory Commentary on the [UCG 2017 Report](#)

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Gemini thanks the UCG for their report from their August 2017 meeting at the Gemini South base facility in La Serena. In preparation for the 2018 meeting, we provide here some updates and responses to the issues raised.

Webpages

- Web site project update - Page prototyping ongoing. New navigation will be tested in late-summer at the earliest. New site may include mechanisms to report issues about pages! The project was planned to end in December 2018, but is delayed by a few months due to unexpected changes in resources availability.
- Content on the new website will be organized by program phases (0/I, II, observations, III). Information related to a program's completion will be under the "observations" section (putative label is "semester information"), and should be found more easily (naturally) than in the current site.
- The Science home page will have direct link to frequently used pages, such as the current instrument configurations. It will also give visibility to the completion expectations page, which now includes the histograms of the fraction of programs achieving both cases of >80% and 100% complete.
- Short survey (and other feedback eventually) results may have a special section on the website. It will highlight how survey answers are used to influence how we work.

Queue planning

- New videos detailing how queue planning works are in the works. The intent is give a more global view of how the observing cycle works, so PIs can make more educated decisions.
- During the content migration for the new website project, it is planned to consolidate all useful information that will help PIs to optimize their chances to reach higher completion into one concise, and clear page. It will also spell out clearly how the contact scientist can help with that too.
- The Gemini PI notification emails have been dramatically shortened with a link to a web page with all the pertinent information (e.g., for [2018A](#))

OCS Upgrades

- OCS upgrades to include: new equivalents of the Phase I and II tools, automated scheduling, probability of execution made clearer, automated reports of observing status of programs throughout the semester (as now), the ability to query the ODBs for program



and observation status. We are working towards a conceptual review of this project in August, 2018.

- A draft timeline and ideas for how we will get this news out to users and engage them will be put together for the next UCG meeting and the 2018 Gemini science meeting.
- The new OCS will support LSST follow-up, including Gemini's participation in follow-up networks. Target Observation Managers (TOMs) that are part of this system are useful outside time domain science.

LLP and PV communication

- There are increasing communications with LLP teams; we will begin regular status update communications with all programs in second half 2018.
- Contact Scientists now have a priority visitor support checklist that includes steps to encourage priority visitors to spend time before or after their run interacting with staff.
- More information on each LLP is available, and will continue to increase in 2018 including links to archive data, publications, etc.
- Following the STAC recommendation (based in part on the UCG's 2017 report) to require future LLP programs to supply reduced data within one year of the end of the program, Gemini has provided [requirements](#) on PI produced data products in order to ingest them in the archive. We are collecting feedback at the 2018 UCG meeting.

Data Reduction Cookbooks, Pipelines and User Forum

- Progress on providing quicklook data products has been delayed due to a shortage of resources in the SUSP. We expect to release our first Python only data reduction package for science quality data reduction for all of our facility imagers early next year. This will allow the possibility to process data in near real-time for ingestion into the archive. GMOS long spectroscopy will be the next mode.
- Gemini agrees that the production of cookbooks and the support of Partner NGO data reduction workshops are high value efforts to our users and we continue to collaborate with the NGOs on both these fronts.
- A new cookbook is now available for FLAMINGOS-2. It was posted on the DR User Forum prior to release on the website to collect feedback.
- Announcements and other DR Forum improvements are on hold with the prospect of a new helpdesk that could include some DR Forum functionality. Start of this project has been delayed due to technical difficulties encountered in replacing the telescope fault reporting system which will use the same underlying software.
- Gemini agrees that high quality calibrations are important to science quality data reduction. We will present our calibration strategies and ask for feedback at the 2018 UCG meeting.

Various

- Calculating oversubscription by instrument is not possible because in most cases there is no nominal time available for each instrument. What we can show instead is information on the hours requested (or demand) per instrument, along with program band and type.



- The Strategic Vision survey was performed by the Board and the responses were not tracked by partner. There is however, an appendix with more details on the process and responses. This has been added to the file [available](#) on our website.

Next meeting

- July 2018 in conjunction with the Science and Evolution of Gemini Observatory Conference in San Francisco which will include both suggested workshops (Speed Collaboration and “Under the Hood”).