



## GEMINI BOARD MEETING

VICTORIA, BC – 13-14 MAY 2002

### Resolutions Arising from 13-14 May 2002 Meeting of the Gemini Board of Directors

2002.A.1 The Gemini Board notes the efforts of the designated members to establish a plan for the disposition of the 5% Chilean share of Gemini among the partners, and approves the proposed purchase of shares in the proportions 47% to the US, 33% to Australia, 15% to Canada, and 5% to be shared by Brazil and Argentina. The Board charges the designated members to resolve the remaining issues concerning the schedule of payments, the disposition of the previously purchased Chilean time by the US, the UK, and Australia, and the distribution of the 2001 nights already used by Chile in semester 2001A as soon as possible, but no later than 30 June 2002. The Board will vote by correspondence on the plan as brought to them by the group of designated members.

2002.A.2 The Gemini Board recognizes the great success of the dedication ceremonies for the Gemini South Telescope, and thanks the staff of the Observatory, the Chilean astronomical community, and AURA for their contributions to this event.

2002.A.3 The Gemini Board notes the Observatory's efforts on the coating chambers and recognizes that the Observatory's effectiveness in the thermal infrared is currently limited by the lack of capability in this area. The Board endorses the plan for proceeding with the work as described by the Observatory management's project plan, namely that – preparation continue for recoating at each site, effort be made on development of silver coatings, and plans continue for SOAR coating.

2002.A.4 The Board recognizes the importance of collecting data and developing metrics relating to the scientific effectiveness and impact of the Gemini Telescopes. In the near term, the Board recommends that efforts in this area should concentrate on collecting and using data that can improve the effectiveness of the Observatory rather than just record it. The National Offices have an important role to play in this activity.

2002.A.5 The Board recognizes the challenges facing the Observatory in terms of high-level software development, and notes the guidelines that are being followed for setting priorities. The Board encourages the Director to discuss with other AURA-managed observatories common approaches and sharing of resources for data reduction software development.

2002.A.6 The Board is concerned with the substantial imbalance developing between the facility instruments designated for Gemini South compared to Gemini North. The Board asks the GSC to examine this issue and advise the Observatory which of the options proposed by the Associate Director for Instrumentation for redressing this



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imbalance would be most scientifically acceptable to the Gemini communities. The Board asks that this discussion take place before the November 2002 Gemini Board meeting.

2002.A.7 The Board supports the concept of time exchange with Keck and ESO for access to instrumentation that provides complementary capability for the Gemini community, and supports the intent of the draft proposals for arrangements with these observatories. The Board encourages the Director to continue negotiations with Keck and ESO to develop specific proposals to effect the mechanisms for time exchange as planned.

2002.A.8 The Board endorses the Observatory's plan to move from commissioning the telescopes to encouraging the participation of visiting observers and charges the Director to implement the practices recommended, namely that

- a. Observers be given some classical access to Gemini North from 2003A and Gemini South from 2003B.
- b. Classical observing should be offered only for those observing modes that have fully developed planning and sequencing tools, which are executed on reliable commissioned facility instruments.
- c. The NTACs directed to ensure classical programs forwarded to the ITAC are awarded on the assumption they require at least 3 consecutive nights.
- d. In the interim, the Associate Directors of Gemini North and South have the option to invite visiting observers to help execute substantive programs recommended by the NTACs and allocated by the Director on the Gemini telescopes. Examples are: National Office mini-queues, substantive multi-NTAC collaborative programs, and demo science programs.

2002.A.9 The Board has endorsed a distributed model of operations. This model depends critically on the performance of the National Gemini Offices to realize the delivery of Gemini's scientific mission. The Observatory has no direct control over these offices, but must rely on the individual funding agencies to assure performance. Accordingly the Board requests that the Observatory negotiate MOUs with each of the National Offices covering the necessary activity. The Observatory should report performance against these MOUs at future Board meetings to help provide a basis for the funding agencies' evaluation of National Office effectiveness.

2002.A.10 The Gemini Board approves the close out of the 2001 Construction budget of \$2,175,289.

The Gemini Board approves the construction budget of \$820,869 for 2002.



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The Board further approves the use of unused construction contingency, projected to be \$196K after planned commitment and anticipated invoice payments, for the purchase of spares.

2002.A.11 The Board approves the closeout of the 2001 Operations budget of \$14,128,551 for Operations and Maintenance, \$3,552,408 for the Instrument Development Fund, \$3,068,875 for the Facilities Development Fund, and \$255,845 for the Southern Base Facility.

The Board approves the revised 2002 Operations budget of \$32,932,629.

2002.A.12 The Board recommends the plan for observing for semester 2002B, namely, that on Gemini North, 50% of time will be used for science observations and 50% will be used for engineering and instrumentation commissioning. On Gemini South, 35% of time will be used for science observations and 65% will be used for engineering and instrumentation commissioning, subject to the instruments being available.

2002.A.13 The Board recommends the plan for observing for semester 2003A, namely, that on Gemini North, 60% of time will be used for science observations and the remainder for engineering and instrumentation commissioning. On Gemini South, 40% of time will be used for science observations and 60% will be used for engineering and instrumentation commissioning, subject to the instruments being available.

2002.A.14 The Board notes that the expectations for semester 2003B are that Gemini North will plan on 65% science time and 35% engineering and instrumentation commissioning and Gemini South for 40% science time and 60% engineering and instrumentation commissioning.



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### Actions Arising from the Meeting of the Gemini Board of Directors – May 2002

1. To Chair of the Gemini Board - to write a letter of appreciation and thanks to Simon Lilly for his time of service to the Board.
2. To NSF to take the necessary steps to request the release of the Office of Inspector General's report on their audit of the US portion of the Gemini instrumentation program, and to make it available to the Board for review and comment.
3. To Chair of the Board to convey to Robert Eisenstein, Assistant Director of the Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences at NSF, the Board's appreciation of his support of the Gemini Project and his efforts on its behalf during his tenure at NSF.
4. The Board designates Roger Davies (chair), Harvey Richer, Gary Da Costa, and Bruce Carney as members of a working group, and charges them with articulating the Board's view of the long-term vision of the Observatory, and to report to the Board at its next meeting, in November 2002. The Board further charges the group to consider the nature of the future of the Gemini Partnership under this vision, and prepare to discuss this with the Board at its following May 2003 meeting.
5. To the Observatory to present a specific plan for instrument deployment to the GSC for their advice and recommendation.
6. The Observatory is asked to present its current risk assessment of the effects of inflation, exchange rate and cost of living on the Gemini Operations budget at the November Board meeting.
7. The Chair of ITAC is requested to have the ITAC consider ways in which the review of joint, multi-partner proposals may be facilitated.