



GEMINI BOARD MEETING

HILO, HAWAI'I (REMOTE) – 11 MAY, 14-15 MAY 2020 RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions Arising from the 11 May and 14-15 May 2020 Gemini Board Meeting

Introduction

The Board met via videoconference on 11 May and 14-15 May 2020. The Observatory staff is commended for the flawless organization and running of the meeting; the Board felt that it could effectively and efficiently carry out its tasks and enjoyed the stimulating discussions with the Observatory staff, despite the difficult circumstances.

The Board acknowledges the continued high level of performance and professionalism of the Gemini staff during the ongoing difficult situations in both Hawai'i and Chile. The Board thanks the Gemini leadership for their responsible decision-making and attention to the safety of staff and the security of each facility during the COVID-19 pandemic, appreciates the Observatory's effective internal and external communications, and applauds the staff for working together as an organization.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Todd Boroson for his service as Board Chair and his invaluable contributions to and support of the Gemini Observatory. The Board would also like to extend its deepest thanks to Dr. Chris Davis, who will be departing the Board after this meeting. The Board welcomes Dr. Laura Ferrarese as the new Board Chair, Dr. Karen O'Neil as Vice Chair, Dr. Federica Bianco and Dr. Steve Howell as new members representing the US, and Dr. Martin Still as the incoming Board NSF representative. Dr. Marcin Sawicki's term as Canadian representative on the Board has been extended by six months, until October 2020.

The Board Resolutions below are for public release. In addition, the Board approved a number of Actions directed to Gemini's Executive Agency, the Board, and its subcommittees.

Resolutions

2020.A.1. The Board welcomes the imminent start of Gemini North operations on 19 May 2020, following an extended period of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board commends the Observatory for ensuring that all safety protocols are in place. Given the possibility that a future resurgence of COVID-19 might force periods of social-distancing and isolation with limited staff and limited access to the facilities, the Board recommends that plans are developed for minimizing the impact on the operation of the telescopes, including plans for the acquisition of protective equipment (e.g. masks).

2020.A.2. The Board expresses its great appreciation to Dr. Elliott Horch's for his leadership of the STAC, and reappoints him for one (1) year as the STAC Chair. Dr. Horch's term will expire in November 2021. The Board also welcomes new STAC member Dr. Ryan Chornock representing the US.

2020.A.3. The Board thanks the STAC for providing a detailed report from its 11-12 May 2020 meeting. The Board endorses the recommendations contained in that report. In particular:

2020.A.3a. The Board endorses the STAC recommended development priorities, in decreasing order: GNAO, SCORPIO, GHOST, GSAOI/GNAO, IGRINS2, GIRMOS, GPI-2, ASM feasibility, GNIRS Controller, IUP, DM0/GeMS improvements.

2020.A.3b. The Board approves the STAC recommended science time goals for semester 2021A of 96% on Gemini South and of 96% on Gemini North, and the adjustment of science time for semester 2020B to 83% for Gemini South. The latter is a slight decrease from the 85% approved



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during the November 2019 GBOD meeting, as necessary to allow the much anticipated commissioning of GHOST.

2020.A.4. The Board acknowledges the presentation from the Gemini Director about strategic opportunities for future instrumentation and welcomes additional discussion at the November 2020 meeting.

2020.A.5. The Board appreciates the detailed Portfolio Report developed by the Observatory. The Board recommends that future reports include a chart showing the high priority projects (including GEMMA) with a delta in terms of total projected time and budget from the last report and from the original project timeline and budget.