The STAC Perspective
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The Science and Technology Advisory Committee advises the Gemini Board on policy matters of long-range scientific and technical importance.

- development priorities
- desired capabilities
- suggestions on proposal time balance
- monitoring of completion and oversubscription rates
- visiting instruments

STAC members also serve on other Gemini committees (instrument selection, director search, ad-hoc governance sub-committees, etc)
Some recent recommendations

- Large and Long Programs - guaranteed level of completeness, obligation to supply processed data for future LLPs

- LSST plan - how to: ensure all partners benefit, protect PI time, dealing with many more targets of opportunity

- Visitor instruments - how to support, possibilities for ‘facilitating’ instruments

- Requested a study on the possibility of moving GeMs to Gemini-North

- Make pipelines a development priority
2018B
Time Requested

North
- GNIRS 20%
- GRACES 9%
- NIFS 11%
- Alopeke 6%
- NIRI 6%
- Polish-2 3%

South
- GMOS-S 63%
- FLAMINGOS-2 17%
- GMOS-N 45%
- DSSI 8%
- GSAOI 5%
- Phoenix 3%
- GPI 4%
GMOS is ~50% of time requested on each telescope, year after year.
Other things we think about

- Gemini N vs S - which instruments should go where, unique opportunities at the two sites *(GPI discussion this afternoon)*
- LSST follow-up for all partners *(tomorrow morning)*
- Updated AO capabilities on G-N *(Wednesday afternoon)*
- New facility instruments - desired capabilities
- Visiting instruments - how many? how much observatory support?
- Block scheduled versus queue - efficiency concerns
Visiting Instruments

• We are enthusiastic about the exciting capabilities visiting instruments enable, especially given the limited funding for new facility instruments.

• Some visiting instruments are being built specifically for Gemini and will be more like facility instruments. *(Thursday morning session)*
  • require substantial staff support for integration
  • no visiting instrument team can support dozens of nights of observations per year, popular visiting instruments need to be supported at a higher level

• Concerns:
  • how much support should be provided? how to decide?
  • how many visiting instruments can be supported?
  • block scheduling inefficiencies
Maximizing Science

- Reduction pipelines
- New instrumentation and capabilities
- Optimizing target of opportunity observations in the era of LSST
- Block scheduled vs queue
- Proposal balance between Regular, Large & Long, and Fast Turnaround
The Big Picture

- Two 8-m telescopes in the era of larger apertures and dedicated survey telescopes
  - two telescopes can develop different specializations
  - balance between PI and large programs
  - synergies with other facilities (Wednesday morning)

- Gemini advantages:
  - responsive (ToOs, fast turnaround, visiting instruments)
  - workhouse instruments
  - Infrared capabilities
  - Adaptive Optics (GeMS, what about the North?)
Concluding Thoughts

• The STAC makes recommendations to the Board about science and technology

• We try to make recommendations that will maximize the science from Gemini, while respecting the needs of our diverse user community

• We are also keen to hear from users. Feel free to contact any of us!