

Ops Working Group 24 Resolutions

RESOLUTION 24.1: The OpsWG is aware of no compelling case for offering both the R600 and R400 gratings in GMOS, and recommends the R600 grating be withdrawn from service.

RESOLUTION 24.2: In order to facilitate honest and frank discussion between Gemini Observatory and NGO staff, the OpsWG recommends that only the Resolutions from each OpsWG meeting from 2010 onwards be made publicly available on the governance web page (<http://www.gemini.edu/science/#owg>).

RESOLUTION 24.3: The OpsWG warmly congratulates the GeMS team for an outstandingly rapid progression from commissioning, through SV, to queue operations.

RESOLUTION 24.4: While recognizing that the current time accounting and partner time balancing requirements do impose an overhead on the Gemini Observatory, the OpsWG is concerned that a move to less frequent time accounting, or even the abandonment of adjustments for partner share imbalances altogether, would prove detrimental to the spirit of fairness within the Gemini partnership.

RESOLUTION 24.5: The OpsWG recommends that visiting instruments be scheduled over a minimum of one week in any semester, to justify the effort involved of Gemini staff while also encouraging PIs to bring their visiting instruments to Gemini.

RESOLUTION 24.6: In the event that FLAMINGOS-2 is not fully available to support a well filled queue operation while GMOS-S is undergoing maintenance and detector upgrades in 2013B, the OpsWG recommends that Gemini pursue the option of offering other instruments via a Special Call for Proposals, such as TReCS or well-understood visitor instruments (Phoenix, TEXES, DSSI) at Gemini South.

RESOLUTION 24.7: The OpsWG concurs with the STAC recommendation that FLAMINGOS2 MOS commissioning and SV be deferred until after the instrument has proven itself to be reliable in its existing modes, and resources become available following GPI commissioning.

RESOLUTION 24.8: The OpsWG, while recognizing the strong interest across most of the partnership in establishing a Large and Long-Term Programs process, is concerned about allowing a non-Gemini entity to allocate that time, and that operational matters such as the impact of such programs on optimally filling the queue bands have not been fully addressed.

RESOLUTION 24.9: The OpsWG congratulates the software group on the completion of the ITAC Phase 2 project, which is now demonstrating improved queue filling, reductions in rollover, simplified ITAC management, and shorter ITAC videoconferences.

RESOLUTION 24.10: The OpsWG commends the Data Reduction group for having a beta release of Gemini IRAF available in time to assist GSAOI SV PIs reduce their data, and on providing a “Getting Started” web page to assist users of all Gemini instruments.

RESOLUTION 24.11: The OpsWG stands ready to engage with the Gemini Observatory on a comprehensive re-examination of the way that various tasks are currently distributed between the NGOs and Gemini. However such an exercise should not be rushed, nor be used as an attempt to bypass the NGOs which are, and will continue to be the main interface between Gemini and its multi-national community of users. In particular the OpsWG is seeking clarification and evidence from Gemini on which particular tasks are viewed as not being performed by NGOs to an acceptable standard, and which of their own tasks Gemini views as being suitable for delegating to the NGOs.