



## GEMINI BOARD MEETING

LA SERENA, CHILE - 12-13 MAY 2003

### Resolutions Arising from 12-13 May 2003 Meeting of the Gemini Board of Directors

- 2003.A.1 The Gemini Board notes with regret the effect of the fires that devastated Mt. Stromlo Observatory and wishes to express its support of the Australian Observatory staff in its efforts to rebuild critical infrastructure and resources. The Board welcomes the continued support ANU and Mt. Stromlo staff has shown toward Gemini and their commitment, even in the face of challenging circumstances, to the Gemini partnership.
- 2003.A.2 The Gemini Board notes the successful results of the commissioning of GMOS-S and commends the ATC-Durham -HIA-Gemini GMOS-S team for their outstanding work.
- 2003.A.3 The Gemini Board was pleased to see the latest images arriving from ALTAIR and recognizes the dedicated work of the HIA-Gemini ALTAIR team.
- 2003.A.4 The Board notes the report on science staffing that the AOC-G prepared at the Board's request and the specific recommendations it makes on how to achieve the Observatory operational and scientific goals. The Board views scientific research as an essential component of staff activities and has confidence in the Observatory's plan to move forward in addressing the AOC-G's recommendations. The Board also encourages the Gemini staff to participate in enhancing the scientific vitality of the Observatory.
- 2003.A.5 The Board notes the paper on "Gemini Data Reduction Software" provided for the meeting, and recognizes the serious burden the support of IRAF has placed on the Gemini staff. It also notes the formation of a team of IRAF programmers from Gemini and NOAO, and requests that the Observatory provide an update, including the implementation plan and schedule for their projected 2-year activities at the November 2003 Board meeting. It is essential from the Board's perspective that a robust data reduction environment exist for Gemini data, to facilitate and enhance science productivity of the telescopes.
- 2003.A.6 The Board recommends that the Gemini Science Committee review the current Observatory model of queue and classical observing fractions (50%/50%) and assess whether the science objectives of the communities are being addressed. The Board requests a recommendation at the next Board meeting.



## GEMINI BOARD MEETING

**LA SERENA, CHILE - 12-13 MAY 2003**

2003.A.7 The Board reaffirms its support of the recommendation of the Gemini Science Committee that at least 70% of total nights be reserved for science on both Gemini telescopes beginning in semester 2004A contingent on the availability of two facility instruments per telescope. The Board recognizes that this will have an effect on the instrument commissioning schedule, and may delay commissioning of some instruments or result in leaving several instrument modes and/or instruments uncommissioned. The Board also recognizes that these goals require that the telescope time allocated in the classical mode continue to be encouraged for fully commissioned modes of instrumentation and must be for a minimum of three nights unless the time is supported directly by the National Gemini Offices.

2003.A.8 The Board notes the establishment of the 4-member Gemini Visiting Committee, with the attached charter. The Board will designate a Chair for a specified term. The Board asks the Observatory and Executive Agency to coordinate the first GVC meeting with upcoming reviews, such as the interim management review and regular AURA oversight activities.

2003.A.9 The Board notes the continued development of the "Joint Implementation Plan for User Support Under the Gemini Agreement", and welcomes the clarification it provides of the respective roles and responsibilities of Gemini and the National Gemini Offices. The Board urges that this document, with several suggested modifications, be signed by the appropriate individuals responsible for the delivery of the necessary resources in each of the NGOs, no later than by the November 2003 Board meeting.

2003.A.10 The Board requests that the Director bring forward as soon as possible, a proposal for the permanent transfer of Michelle to Gemini as discussed at the November 2002 meeting. Additionally the Board asks the Director to work with PPARC to clarify and agree on the expected sensitivity gains related to the move from UKIRT to Gemini as a facility instrument.

2003.A.11 The Gemini Board endorses the plan for continued limited staff involvement in AURA New Initiatives Office (NIO) activities related to the design and development of future large telescopes, as presented by the Director, and will re-examine the extent of this activity at the next Board meeting. The Board also charges the Director to present a possible model for the involvement of Gemini Observatory staff in the technology development programs to the Board Futures Working Group.

2003.A.12 The Board notes the report of the Strategic Planning Group, chaired by Wayne Van Citters and supports their outline of a strategic approach that rests on the definition of compelling science questions to which Gemini can uniquely contribute. The Board urges the Aspen 2003 participants to focus on the development of key



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science questions for Gemini operating in a scientifically exciting era. With a sufficiently compelling science case, the designated representatives from the partner funding agencies will actively pursue efforts to find the resources to enable the Gemini community to address these scientific issues in a highly competitive environment.

2003.A.13 The Board notes the activities of the working group to develop proposals for revised procedures for the time allocation process that will seek to provide equitable treatment for proposals spanning more than one TAC and that do not unnecessarily disadvantage time requests because of their size. The Board recognizes that there is insufficient data to judge whether such proposals are discriminated against in the current TAC process. The Board requests the Observatory to consult with the Operations Working Group and the National Gemini Offices and their respective communities to see if there is a perception that the review process discriminates against multi-partner proposals and to return to the Board with any suggestions it wishes to make for improvement in the process.

2003.A.14 The Board notes the situation regarding payment of Argentina's contributions for operations and welcomes the explanation and proposed plan of payment provided in the letter of 28 April 2003 from the President of CONICET to the Executive Agency. The Board agrees to continue its plan to assume the operations payments for 2003 that was introduced at the November 2002 meeting in resolution 2002.B.12, namely to assume Argentina's observing time and operations payments in proportion to the partner shares established after the buy-out of the Chilean share. The Board further agrees to make these payments according to the normal payment schedule for 2004 contributions.

The Board also welcomes Argentina's proposal to accumulate any payments made in 2003, 2004, and perhaps 2005 as credit toward a full year's payment of operations costs until such time that Argentina can re-establish full participation in its scheduled share of contributions and access to observing time. The Board finds the possibility of partial payment and partial use of time by Argentina not to be a workable solution.

The Board will revisit at each Board meeting the situation regarding the status of Argentina's ability to make regular payments and establish, as necessary at that time, the arrangement for partners to assume the operations cost and associated observing time.

2003.A.15 The Gemini Board approves the revised 2002 Construction Budget of \$613,340 (\$613,340 Cash Expenditures and \$0 contribution credit).

The Gemini Board approves the revised 2003 Construction Budget of \$207,529, representing the roll-over of unused 2002 funds into 2003. In addition, the Gemini



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Board approves the use of any funds remaining after coating plant and enclosure punch list work is complete for the purchase of spares. The Gemini Board notes that all construction expenditures will be finalized by 30 September 2003.

2003.A.16 The Gemini Board approves the revised 2002 Operations Budget of \$27,930,285.

2003.A.17 The Gemini Board approves the revised 2003 Operations Budget of \$36,204,629.



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### Actions Arising from the Meeting of the Gemini Board of Directors – May 2003

**To AURA:** The Board requests that AURA work with Chilean representatives to the Board to arrive at a plan for a suitable event for the commemoration of the plaque in memory of Claudio Anguita's contribution to the Gemini Observatory, and to come to the Board with a report on options for making these arrangements at its November 2003 meeting.

**To the NSF:** The Board requests that the Executive Agency explore with representatives of CONICYT the situation regarding the establishment of a fund for the investment in Chilean astronomy and report back to the Board as soon as possible if it appears that there may be impediments to moving forward with the plan for a cooperative agreement with CONICYT.

**To the Chair:** The Chair of the Gemini Board to write a letter of thanks and appreciation to Bob Joseph for his service as Chair of the Gemini Science Committee.

**To the NSF:** The Board requests the Executive Agency to draft the terms of reference for the upcoming management review and to circulate this to the Board for comment and revision.

**To the NSF, Observatory, and Board:** The Board requests the Executive Agency to forward information on the NSF-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates program at CTIO to the Board. It further requests the Observatory to explore staff attitudes toward a student research program, the impact it would have on the Observatory and how it might be implemented. The Board undertakes to explore opportunities and mechanisms for their respective country participation and sources of funding for such a program.