



## GEMINI BOARD MEETING

**HILO, HAWAI'I - 10 – 11 NOVEMBER 2003**

### **Resolutions Arising from 10 – 11 November 2003 Meeting of the Gemini Board of Directors**

- 2003.B.1 The Board reaffirms its support of the policy that a minimum of 70% of the total nights be reserved for science on both Gemini telescopes in semester 2004B contingent on the availability of two facility instruments per telescope.
- 2003.B.2 The Board notes the Gemini Science Committee's remarks on the current Observatory model of queue and classical observing fractions (50%/50%) and its assessment of whether the science objectives of the communities are being addressed under this model. The Board endorses the GSC's view that the current demand for queue observing is higher than the original operational model assumed, and without determining a strict split in operational mode, a balance of closer to 75% queue/25% classical may better reflect the desires of the Gemini community. The Board encourages the Observatory and the National Gemini Offices, where appropriate, to pursue ways to facilitate classical observing, such as packaging programs into classical mini-queue runs. The Board also recognizes that changes in the balance of queue to classical have implications for the Observatory's operational model and urges the Observatory to incorporate these changes into the budget it develops for the period 2006-2010.
- 2003.B.3 The Board reiterates the importance of the Joint Implementation Plan and encourages those who have not yet signed to do so expeditiously.
- 2003.B.4 The Board notes the efforts to consolidate some of the oversight and advisory committee meetings which Gemini staff must prepare for and attend, in particular the plan to coordinate the AOC-G and GSC meetings.
- 2003.B.5 To enhance the value of the Gemini Finance Committee's work, the Board will move the annual meeting of the GFC to the same location and to the two days immediately preceding the November meetings of the Gemini Board.
- 2003.B.6 The Board notes the options for enhancing the operational model and Gemini's scientific presence in the community as presented by the Observatory. The Board recognizes the importance of strengthening ties to the community and ensuring the Observatory is producing science of impact and significance. However, the Board feels it is too early to be overly concerned about apparent statistical trends in subscription rates and that it is premature to begin adjusting TAC processes or considering substantial revisions to visitor or observer support policies. Instead, the Board recognizes and supports two fundamental goals or enhancements above the Observatory's original operating model, namely, 1) the change in balance of modes of operational support from 50% queue/50% classical to closer to 75% queue/25% classical, 2) the importance of developing robust data reduction pipeline processing and providing processed data to users. The Board recognizes that these changes in operation will necessitate additional financial support and urges the Observatory to include these considerations in the development of their budget for 2006-2010.
- 2003.B.7 The Gemini Board reaffirms the 2003 Construction Budget of \$207,529. The Gemini Board notes that all construction expenditures have been completed and approves the final closeout of the Construction Fund.
- 2003.B.8 The Gemini Board approves the revised 2003 Operations Budget of \$35,125,525.
- 2003.B.9 The Gemini Board approves the proposed 2004 Operations Budget of \$30,797,454.



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In giving this approval, the Board accepts Argentina's proposal to revise their payment schedule to one in which payment of one quarter of the annual contribution would be made at the beginning of each quarter of the year.

2003.B.10 The Board further endorses the GFC's recommendation to remind all parties of their responsibility to meet, in full, their obligations under the Gemini Agreement. Should any party's contributions not be up to date by 31 December of any year, the Default procedures of Article 16 of the Gemini Agreement will be invoked.

2003.B.11 The Board notes that if Argentina makes full payment of their scheduled contributions by the end of 2003, they will have discharged their debt and will have access to observing time on the Gemini telescopes for semester 2004B.

2003.B.12 The Board endorses the planned Gemini Science Meeting in May 2004. Recognizing its importance, the Board has moved its meeting date to facilitate Board attendance and will meet in Hilo on 20-21 May 2004, immediately preceding the Gemini Science Meeting in Vancouver.

2003.B.13 The Board congratulates the staff for successfully expediting the Aspen process that has vigorously engaged the community and produced a compelling vision of science for the future with Gemini. In addition the Board thanks the working group chairs for their pivotal contributions. The Board welcomes the two reports arising from the Aspen Workshop activities and their clear and eloquent definition of compelling science questions for the Gemini community and ways in which to realize them.

The Board recommends that the Observatory launch the vision that emerged from the Aspen process to the community as a necessary prelude to pursuing the concepts and designs that emerged. The suggested format should build on the current executive summary and be written in a voice commensurate with a broad audience. This document should be disseminated widely to agencies, NGOs, partner communities and colleagues across the disciplines.

The Board recognized the need for continuing scientific stewardship of the large investigations that drive the instrument concepts that emerged from the Aspen process. The Board asks the Director to take appropriate steps with the GSC and others to ensure that the focus remains on the science enabled by the instruments and to continue the development of the scientific vision in a way that will assist the evolution of the concepts into specific capabilities for Gemini.

The Board endorses with enthusiasm the staged approach the Observatory has outlined for realizing the recommendations of future instrumentation formulated by the GSC. Specifically, the Board urges the Observatory to proceed as soon as possible with design studies for the Extreme AO Coronagraph and the High Resolution NIR spectrometer according to the scheduled proposed by Observatory staff.

The Board also encourages the Observatory to launch feasibility studies for the Wide Field Fiber-fed Optical MOS and the Ground Layer AO system, consistent with the GSC's recommendation. The Board notes that the GSC differentiated between these two instrument concepts in terms of scientific priority, suggesting that the scientific goals of the WFMOS are potentially more extensive. In view of the broad context of the scientific evolution of the observatory, and considering the considerable technical risks, the Board agrees that the scientific and technical feasibilities of both instruments need to be more thoroughly demonstrated. The Board further requests that more than one feasibility study be carried out for each instrument concept. The Board urges the Director to identify and utilize the resources necessary to enable an in-house systems evaluation of both instruments and of all submitted feasibility studies.



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The Board endorses the third component of the Observatory's plan, which is to explore the modification of existing or already planned instruments to provide low-cost alternatives capable of achieving some of the key science goals identified in the Aspen Workshop report.



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

**To the Chair:** The Chair of the Gemini Board to write letters of thanks and appreciation to Robert McLaren, Augusto Damineli, and Harvey Richer for their service on the Gemini Board of Directors.

**To the NSF:** The Board charges the Executive Agency to modify the Gemini Board Rules of Procedure as necessary to put into place additional membership for the partner holding the Chair.

**To the NSF, AURA, and designated members:** To review the charge to the AOC-G and the responsibilities of AURA as detailed in the cooperative agreement and other documents to assess the extent of overlap and duplication in responsibilities of AURA oversight and that of the Gemini Board. Should it appear that any changes to these responsibilities need to be made, to bring this to the attention of the Board at the May 2004 meeting.

**To the NSF and designated members:** To amend the combined charge to the Gemini Visiting Committee and Interim Management Review Committee as discussed. The Board requests the designated members to nominate members to serve on the Interim Management Review Committee and provide their names to the NSF.

**To the NSF:** To revise the Administrative Guidelines in consideration of adopted changes in the payment schedule for Argentina.