



GEMINI BOARD MEETING

LA SERENA, CHILE – 14-16 NOVEMBER 2007

Resolutions Arising from 14-16 November 2007 Meeting of the Gemini Board of Directors

2007.B.1 The Board deeply regrets the announcement that the UK will likely withdraw as a partner in the Gemini Observatory. The UK has made substantial and very valuable contributions to the success of Gemini from its earliest days. The Board reaffirms its vision for the Observatory and resolves to address any resource problems brought on by the announced UK intentions as quickly as possible and with minimum impact on the current operation of the Observatory. The Board is confident that the Gemini Observatory will continue to operate efficiently and productively.

The Board charges the designated members to work to arrive at a new partnership arrangement that provides continued, long-term support to the Observatory as soon as possible once the official UK position is known. The Board requests that the Finance Committee hold an Extraordinary meeting in February 2008 to evaluate the financial feasibility of future arrangements for the Board. The Board also requests the Executive Agency to move quickly to initiate the necessary changes to the Gemini Agreement to reflect new partnership arrangements.

2007.B.2 The Board noted the report of the Executive Agency concerning the interest expressed by Austria in possibly joining the Gemini partnership. Particularly in light of the likely change of status of the UK, the Board asks that the Executive Agency convey to the appropriate parties in Austria its interest in pursuing this possibility further. The Board would hope that a more detailed proposal from Austria could be considered at the extraordinary Finance Committee meeting in the latter part of February 2008.

2007.B.3 The Board notes that the revised band sizes that were established in 2007A and other observations called out by the GSC make the previous completion goals for observing programs more difficult to achieve. The Board agrees with the suggested revisions to the requirements and goals for completion of observing programs made by the Observatory and endorsed by the OpsWG.

2007.B.4 The Board is pleased to see that progress continues to be made on developing mechanisms to rectify the imbalances in partner time allocations and looks forward to seeing the remaining disparities from nominal partner share minimized in the near future.

2007.B.5 The Board notes the institution of the new process for submission and review of Band 4 proposals and welcomes this strategy for increasing the number of proposals for programs that can be executed under poor weather conditions. The Board recommends the Observatory advertizes this opportunity.



GEMINI BOARD MEETING

LA SERENA, CHILE – 14-16 NOVEMBER 2007

2007.B.6 The Board received the proposal of a policy for handling the undersubscription of scheduled time by a partner. After considerable discussion, the Board asked that the Observatory refer the proposed policy to the NGOs for input and bring a revised policy to the Board for consideration at its May 2008 meeting.

2007.B.7 The Board approves the proposed minimum science fraction times of 85% for Gemini North and 75% for Gemini South for 2008B, with a goal of up to 90% on both North and South, depending on the commissioning schedules of GNIRS and Flamingos-2. In view of the recent trends towards undersubscription by some partners as well as the lower subscription rate for Gemini South in general, the Board urges the Observatory to work with the NGOs to call attention of the user community to these fractions as soon as possible and further to consider an early release of the call for proposals.

2007.B.8 The Board noted the plans for GNIRS recovery. As part of the recovery, the Board asks that the test suite include a spectroscopic verification to ensure that there is no contamination of optics by residues that would compromise the ultimate performance of GNIRS.

2007.B.9 The Board notes the report of the external review held of the MCAO program, and the Observatory's response to its findings and recommendations. The Board endorses the actions the Observatory is taking to address the issues raised in the report and looks forward to the progress made possible by a more tightly managed effort, recognizing that trades will have to be made against other programs and priorities. In particular, the Board concurs with the higher priority the Observatory is affording to operations with the result that MCAO will not be delivered on the previous schedule.

2007.B.10 The Board noted the intention of the Observatory to form the GPI science team with the issuance of an RFP sometime in 2008. The Board asks that the Observatory bring to the Board a draft of the RFP as well as a management plan for the activity of the science team that includes considerations of possible conflicts of interest, relationship to other similar efforts, estimates of the funding necessary for team activities, etc. This should be presented to the Board through the Gemini Finance Committee at its extraordinary February 2008 meeting.

2007.B.11 The Board notes the report on the safety program, commends the Observatory for the progress it has made in establishing a strong, responsive, inclusive safety program at Gemini and expresses its full support for this initiative.

2007.B.12 The Board acknowledges receipt of the letters from SECTIP in Argentina to the Executive Agency and to the Board Chair establishing SECTIP as the Executive



GEMINI BOARD MEETING

LA SERENA, CHILE – 14-16 NOVEMBER 2007

Agency for Gemini within Argentina, communicating the intention to resume payments as of 1 January 2008, and naming Dr. Levato as coordinator of the Gemini program at SECTIP. The Board asks that NSF obtain clarification concerning the Argentine Board representative as well as the Argentine members of the various Gemini committees and working groups from SECTIP as soon as possible. The Board also asks that NSF convey to SECTIP the payment terms contained in the Administrative Guidelines and the Board's resolve to enforce the provisions of these Administrative Guidelines strictly and immediately in the event of any further delays in Argentine payments. Upon prompt receipt of payment in 2008, the Board welcomes the renewed participation of Argentina in all Observatory activity and the resumption of telescope use in semester 2008B.

2007.B.13 The Board notes its receipt, through the Gemini Finance Committee, of the AURA audit report and the unqualified opinion by the external auditor.

2007.B.14 The Board notes the extensive report on risk management for both programmatic and financial activity of the Observatory. The Board is satisfied that a proactive and effective risk management program is an integral part of the management of Gemini, and looks forward to continued updates as risks are identified, quantified, and mitigating actions are taken. The Board welcomes the continued efforts of AURA to find a systemic solution to the exchange rate problem.

2007.B.15 The Board approves unconditionally the WFMOS design contract, GEM00467 and approves the WFMOS design contracts GEM00468 and GEM00491 on the condition that GEM00491 is signed by STFC. The Board asks that the Observatory immediately begin studying a restructuring of GEM00468 and GEM00491 in the event that STFC cannot promptly sign the contract. The Board wishes to see both these efforts begin as soon as possible and that any delay due to possible restructuring of contract GEM00491 be held to a month or less. Should it be foreseen that the delay be greater than 6 weeks, the Board should be consulted. The Board also wishes to accelerate, if at all possible, the arrangements with Japan for WFMOS and asks that the Executive Agency be involved in discussions with the appropriate parties in Japan on behalf of the partnership at the earliest opportunity.

2007.B.16 Reluctantly the Board finds that it cannot approve the contract for PRVS (GEM00479) in the light of the budget outlook resulting from the announcement by the UK. The commitments that would be taken on by approval of both the PRVS contract and the WFMOS contracts would expose the basic operations of the Observatory to an unacceptable risk. Because of this, the Board has taken careful note of the science priorities expressed by the Gemini Science Committee (as determined in the April 23-24, 2007 special GSC meeting, presented at the May 2007 Board meeting, and reflected in



GEMINI BOARD MEETING

LA SERENA, CHILE – 14-16 NOVEMBER 2007

resolution 2007.A.9) in the decision to move forward expeditiously with the WFMOS design contracts.

2007.B.17 The Board reaffirms its continuing commitment to the Aspen vision.

2007.B.18 The Board notes the new membership of the GSC and the new role the committee is playing as a conduit of views from the user community. The Board finds it essential that the GSC have an active role in both the annual planning process and the development of the long range plan by the Observatory. The Board asks the Director to ensure one or more GSC members are included in the planning retreats of the Observatory and/or to consider rephrasing the GSC meeting to provide scientific input.

2007.B.19 The Gemini Board approves the revised 2007 Operations Budget.

2007.B.20 The Gemini Board approves the 2008 Operations Budget.

2007.B.21 The Board notes that the nature of the partnership has resulted in the presence of representatives of the partner communities in almost all Gemini committees, working groups, and other formal and informal Gemini bodies. The likely withdrawal of the UK means that these and many other functions and agreements must be examined carefully to assure that adequate account be taken of the effect of the change in the partnership's composition. The Board asks the Observatory and the Executive Agency to produce an inventory of all such functions, committees, and agreements and suggested actions or policies for each, as appropriate, for necessary action by the Board. Some of these actions may require Board approval by correspondence for timely resolution.

2007.B.22 The Board thanks Luis Campusano for his long service to the Gemini Board and to the Gemini community. His leadership during the period of redefinition of Chile's position in the partnership has resulted in a stronger organization and provided unique opportunities for growth and development of the Chilean astronomical community.

2007.B.23 The Board thanks Doug Welch for his service on the Gemini Board, especially as Chair for the past two years. His active and forward-looking leadership and his rare blend of wisdom and sound management skills helped guide the Board and the Observatory through a challenging period of securing funding for the Aspen program.

2007.B. 24 The Board received notification from CONICYT of the change in Chilean Board membership and welcomes Dr. Monica Rubio as the Chilean Board representative.



GEMINI BOARD MEETING

LA SERENA, CHILE – 14-16 NOVEMBER 2007

2007.B.25 The Board warmly thanks the organizers of the Gemini Science Meeting at Foz do Iguacu, Brazil. By all accounts the meeting was a great success, with over 130 participants from many countries.



GEMINI BOARD MEETING

LA SERENA, CHILE – 14-16 NOVEMBER 2007

Actions Arising from the Meeting of the Gemini Board of Directors 14 - 16 November 2007

To the Executive Agency and Designated Members: The Board charges the designated members to work to arrive at a new partnership arrangement that provides continued, long-term support to the Observatory as soon as possible once the official UK position is known. The Board also requests the Executive Agency to move quickly to make any necessary changes to the Gemini Agreement to reflect new partnership arrangements.

To the Board Chair: The Board requests that the Finance Committee hold an Extraordinary meeting in February 2008 to evaluate the financial feasibility of future arrangements for the Board.

To the Executive Agency: Particularly in light of the likely change of status of the UK, the Board asks that the Executive Agency convey to the appropriate parties in Austria its interest in pursuing further their expression of possible interest in joining the Gemini partnership. The Board would hope that a more detailed proposal from Austria could be considered at the extraordinary Finance Committee meeting in the latter part of February 2008.

To the Gemini Observatory: The Board asks that the Observatory refer the proposed policy for handling the undersubscription of allocated telescope time by a partner to the NGOs for input and bring a revised policy to the Board for consideration at its May 2008 meeting.

To the Gemini Observatory: The Board asks that the test suite for GNIRS recovery include a spectroscopic verification to ensure that there is no contamination of optics by residues that would compromise the ultimate performance of GNIRS.

To the Observatory: The Board asks that the Observatory bring to the Board a draft of the proposed RFP for the development of GPI science teams as well as a management plan for the activity of the science team that includes considerations of possible conflicts of interest, relationship to other similar efforts, estimates of the funding necessary for team activities, etc. This should be presented to the Board through the Gemini Finance Committee at its extraordinary February meeting.

To the Executive Agency: The Board asks that NSF obtain clarification concerning the Argentine Board representative as well as the Argentine members of the various Gemini committees and working groups from SECTIP as soon as possible. The Board also asks



GEMINI BOARD MEETING

LA SERENA, CHILE – 14-16 NOVEMBER 2007

that NSF convey to SECTIP the payment terms contained in the Administrative Guidelines and the Board's resolve to enforce the provisions of these Administrative Guidelines strictly and immediately in the event of any further delays in Argentine payments.

To the Executive Agency: The Board asks that the Executive Agency be involved in discussions with the appropriate parties in Japan on behalf of the partnership at the earliest opportunity, in the interest of accelerating as much as possible the developing arrangements with Japan for WFMOS.

To the Executive Agency: The Board charges the Executive Agency to communicate with the STFC requesting a rapid definition of the UK position in Gemini.

To the Observatory: The Board asks the Director to ensure one or more GSC members are included in the planning retreats of the Observatory and/or to consider rephrasing the GSC meeting to provide scientific input.

To the Observatory: To provide, at each Board meeting, an updated assessment of the liens on available telescope time showing changes from the previous report.

To the Observatory and the Executive Agency: The Board asks the Observatory and the Executive Agency to produce an inventory of all functions, committees, and agreements that will be affected by the change in the UK's participation in the partnership, and develop suggested actions or policies for each, as appropriate, and convey those requiring action by the Board for approval by correspondence as necessary.