

December 2012 Recommendations

Opening Remarks

The JCSA meeting was held on December 7-8 2012 at the CSA Headquarters in Saint-Hubert and the Université de Montréal. Attending from the JCSA were Laura Parker (chair), David Lafrenière, David Naylor, JJ Kavelaars, Peter Martin (via WebEx) and Laura Ferrarese (ex-officio, CASCA president). Jean Dupuis, Denis Laurin, Genevieve Marchand, Alain Ouellet, Karl Saad, Jean-Claude Piedboeuf, Sylvie Béland and Martin Lebeuf represented the CSA. In addition, parts of the meeting were attended by René Doyon and John Hutchings.

Canada's Involvement with JWST

Recommendation #1: The JCSA strongly recommends immediately extending the contracts for those involved with FGS/NIRISS for a minimum of 2 years.

Recommendation #2: The JCSA requests that the CSA develop a strategy to minimize the impact of new restrictions on travel funding, especially for government employees. In the case of JWST, if another solution cannot be found, the JCSA suggests transferring funds to René Doyon's contract to cover travel of FGS/NIRISS science team members.

Future Missions

Recommendation #3: The JCSA strongly and urgently recommends that the CSA identify the funding needed to ensure Canada's involvement in Euclid. We also request that the CSA keep the JCSA informed of all PanSTARRS/Euclid negotiations in a timely manner.

Recommendation #4: The JCSA recommends that the CSA continue support for the Canadian-led CASTOR project by funding a phase 0 or related technology study, to followup the thorough and well-received concept study.

Recommendation #5: The JCSA recommends that the CSA continue to support SPICA development until the mission decision is made by JAXA.

Current Mission Support and Budget Priorities

Recommendation #6: The JCSA recommends that SPIRE be funded for the expected 3 years of post-ops activities, in line with Herschel-HIFI and other international partners.

Recommendation #7: The JCSA recommends that the CSA wind down MOST operations as soon as possible so that the funds can be redirected to higher priority space astronomy projects.

Capacity Building

Recommendation #8: The JCSA recommends that, before the next Clusters AO, the CSA revise and broaden the scope of strategic areas so that they be more inclusive of space astronomy activities.

Recommendation #9: The JCSA recommends that the CSA provide feedback to all applicants who applied for FAST funding.

Recommendation #10: The JCSA recommends that the CSA investigate alternative capacity building avenues for space astronomy via new programs (reallocating FAST funds) or a broader AO for the next round of FAST grants.

Recommendation #11: The JCSA recommends that the CSA reintroduce the SSEP program as soon as possible.

Concluding Remarks

The JCSA is composed of Laura Parker (chair), David Lafrenière, David Naylor, Peter Martin and JJ Kavelaars. Laura Ferrarese, Samir Boughaba and Greg Fahlman are ex-officio members in their role as CASCA President, NSERC representative and NRC/NSI GM, respectively.

Laura Parker will end her term as JCSA Chair effective June 15, 2013. At this point it is critical to find new members for the JCSA as well as identify a new chair. The next JCSA meeting will be held in Vancouver and coincide with the annual general meeting of CASCA.

The JCSA would like to thank David Lafrenière and the CSA for hosting this meeting.

On behalf of the JCSA,



Laura Parker

December, 2012