

The JCSA normally meets twice per year, once in the late spring (at CASCA) and once in the late fall (via teleconf). The fall meeting had been held at CSA in the past but budget restrictions at CSA (who had funded this activity) prevented a face-to-face meeting and so the meeting was held via teleconference call. We also meet via 'email' occasionally to respond to input request from CSA.

Current membership of the JCSA are: (date when person leave JCSA given in brackets is approximate)

JJ Kavelaars, NRC (co-chair, Spring 2016)

Marcin Sawicki, SMU (Spring 2017)

Sarah Gallagher, UWO (Spring 2018)

Brenda Matthews, NRC (Spring 2019)

Chris O'Dea (UMan) (Spring 2019)

Sara Ellison (U-Vic) (Fall 2019)

The in 15/16 the JCSA met in May and November of 2015 and February of 2016. The May meeting was held in conjunction with CASCA in Hamilton while the November meeting was a teleconference call to deal with some urgent matters regarding WFIRST. The February meeting was also by Teleconf and was the main 'November' meeting delayed until after the MTR report was available. The minutes from the November and February meetings are attached to this email, the May 2015 meeting report was filed previously.

The major points from the last year are as follows:

- CSA has agreed to continue to support, at a minimal level, the development of the some CASTOR mission technology development. There was a hope that this project would go to PHASE-0 but that has not happened. Largely CSA sees CASTOR and WFIRST as missions that must be selected between, but they are willing to keep CASTOR moving forward slowly while they evaluate the WFIRST situation. CASTOR, however, could be pursued after WFIRST as a 'next generation' facility.
- WFIRST completed the concept development phase and NASA/CSA have agreed on a down select of possible Canadian hardware contribution. Those contributions are the Relative Calibration System and the IFU. There is currently a Phase-0 RFP being evaluated to select the team that will pursue the Phase-0. The teams are meant to be just technical with an expectation that science guidance will come from the 'topic teams'.

- Via the "FAST" program the CSA has continued to support Canadian hardware contribution to SPICA. This contribution has been made to David Naylor's lab to ensure they have the capacity to respond to developments with the SPICA project. The project itself has been substantially de-scoped.
- Astro-H launched successfully and acquired some small amount of commission data prior to failing. This will impact the funding that was promised to the Astro-H team. Details and plans will be made clearer during the June 2016 JCSA meeting.
- AstroSat is working well. Canada's participation is a bit at risk as the contract to support data analysis and science exploitation has been delayed and underfunded. There is a hope that at the June meeting a positive development for AstroSat science exploitation funded will be announced. AstroSAT/UVIT recently had a call for Canadian proposals that will be evaluated by CanTAC.
- JWST is continuing on schedule. The Canadian contributions are passing their integration tests. CSA has been working with NSERC to establish a plan for mission science support. They appear to have accepted that CSA must fund this activity at a level that parallels the US process but is not really the same. JCSA has recommend an approach were expert data scientist be stationed at the CADC and their be money provided to science teams when they are awarded telescope time. More details will become available in the later summer of 2016.
- The BRITE constellation is now producing science papers and the JCSA has recommended that their ground support activities continue to be funded until 2017. This is a mission extension for BIRTE which should allow the mission to achieve its science goals. A public BRITE archive has been organized in Poland and should be available soon.
- LiteBird continues to be supported via Technology Development funding to ensure that Canada is well place to provide multiplexers for this mission.