



Responses to Actions from previous meeting (SUG7)

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SOFIA Users Group #8
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SUG7 Recommended:

1. NASA HQ put in place advisory structure
2. USRA and SMD improve diversity of advisors
3. CLASS format be permitted for GREAT
4. Initiating action to enable Nasmyth blower
5. SMO to use proposal pressure for deployment decisions
6. Increasing DDT by factor of ~ 2 starting in Cycle 4
7. Increasing Guest Investigator support
8. Using a phased approach for science instrument selection





1. NASA HQ put in place advisory structure

- www.sofia.usra.edu under “SOFIA Advisory Groups” now has descriptions of the 4 main groups
 - GSSWG: description, members
 - SNOPAC: charter, members
 - SSC: members
 - SUG: charter, members, agendas & presentations all 7 meetings
- All these groups have had meetings this year



2. USRA and SMD improve diversity of advisors



- This issue will be addressed each time advisory committee memberships are changed
- Gender diversity
 - For the SUG, we have added 2 new female members: 8M/3F
 - The SSC has remains 5M/1F
 - The SNOPAC and GSSWG are both 5M/0F
 - Not counting ex officio members of any of the committees



3. CLASS format be permitted for GREAT

- This capability has now been implemented
- In order to satisfy the mission requirement of FITS archiving, while providing the data in the format in which it is processed and judged most useful to observers, we
 - Archive raw Level1 FITS files as before
 - Package the native CLASS and converted FITS products into a tar file
 - Generate an associated metadata (XLS) file so that the data are searchable as before
- In the process, we have retrofitted much of the early GREAT data that had not been properly archived due to lack of metadata



4. Initiating action to enable Nasmyth blower

- We have not pursued the Nasmyth blower yet
- Reasoning
 - Cooling the air in the tube that feeds light to the SIs was expected to have only a limited improvement (and only at wavelengths shorter than the prime SOFIA capability range)
 - Development activities have significant cost of system engineering
 - Integration activities involve significant observatory downtime
 - The Observatory has a backlog of critical activities that must be completed (cavity fasteners etc)
- The development proposals for the Observatory are being compiled by the Program (Zavala presentation)



5. Use proposal pressure for deployment decisions

- This is ALWAYS how the deployment decisions are made.
- More explanation of the Cycle 4 decision process is in a presentation by the Director (Young) at this meeting





6. Increasing DDT by factor of ~ 2

- The amount of Directors Discretionary Time remains at 7%
- Reasons for not pursuing an increase:
 - There remain significant pools of Guaranteed Time Observations and commissioning of HAWC+
 - The capabilities of the observatory continue to expand, and we believe an entrepreneurial spirit, as opposed to a directed effort, will be more likely to make new discoveries
- See presentation by Director (Young) on “Observatory Time Utilization”



7. Increasing Guest Investigator support

- As part of the FY16 budget, we have increased Guest Investigator Support for Cycle 4
- The “SOFIA constant” is now approximately \$10k/hr





8. Phased approach for instrument selection

- Such an approach was implemented by HQ:
 - Step 1 (effective letter of intent)
 - Step 2 proposals emphasizing scientific promise
 - Selection of 1-2 for Phase A funding [IN PROCESS NOW]
 - Downselect to 1 facility SI for development timed for delivery in 2018