

Update on BPA Activities

Fall Meeting of the Solid State Sciences Committee
October 19, 2006
Beckman Center, Irvine, CA

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NRC, BPA Activities

- NRC report on women in academia, *Beyond Bias and Barriers*
- BCST report on advanced chemical imaging, *Visualizing Chemistry*
- Triennial Review of NNI, *A Matter of Size*
- Rare Isotope Science Assessment Committee
 - “RIA” is no longer tenable, White House/Congress squabbles (on this issue) on temporary hold
 - Committee hurrying to release a final report before FY2008 budget process too far along
- Survey of Scientific Uses of the Radio (E-M) Spectrum
 - Sponsors satisfied with charge; will move ahead in Jan 2007

Astronomy

- **NASA Astronomy Performance Assessment**
 - Congressionally requested assessment of NASA Astrophysics Program performance since 2001 with the last decadal survey as a scorecard
 - Chaired by Ken Keller, a biomedical engineer and public-policy expert
- **Astronomy & astrophysics community thinking hard about their next decadal survey**
 - Watching Physics 2010 with interest (recent articles in Nature)
- **Old fire drill: NRC analysis of FY2007 budget request**
 - NASA has too many tasks/responsibilities, not enough resources
- **New fire drill: what about Beyond Einstein?**
 - Series of 5 missions that address phys/astro interface have been delayed and delayed
 - Committee being formed to choose which to go first...

Physics 2010



Elementary Particle Physics 2010

- Report released in late April 2006
- Much attention; real impact takes time



Atomic, Molecular, Optical Physics 2010

- Report released in July 2006
- Good attention, real impact takes time



Condensed-Matter and Materials Physics 2010

- Interim report released in Sept 2006
- See later discussion

Plasma Science 2010

- Racing toward the finish line

Outlook

- FY 2007 budget
 - Omnibus? Individual appropriation bills? All kinds of goodies...
- How long can the Innovation wave last?
- As elsewhere, if the feds can't do it, go to regional/local levels
 - *Gathering Storm* convocation for all 50 states was held end of September