

Overview of the Recent CAPS Meeting

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Planetary Science/Astrobiology

- CAPS was presented a very thorough Mars 2020 presentation by members of the Science Definition Team
 - The SDT did an excellent job in developing the mission concept, which is highly responsive to the Decadal survey science requirements.
 - Potential cost growth issues exist *via* incorporating new technologies that have the potential to expand the mission beyond its cost cap.
 - Discussed planetary science aspects of the draft 2014 SMD Science Plan
- The Europa Clipper mission continues to develop as a concept.
 - An instrument technology development program was initiated in FY13 that will provide some momentum for the mission.

Planetary Science/Astrobiology

- Initial discussions were held regarding Planetary Protection
 - Several issues relating to the implementation of PP on MSL and potential PP issues associated with Mars 2020 were raised
 - These issues will likely be a major focus of upcoming CAPS conference calls and the March CAPS meeting.
 - NASA PPO indicated SSB will be asked to convene a Meeting of Experts to discuss organic contamination issues associated with the Mars 2020 rover.
- An extended discussion was held regarding the President's FY14 budget proposal, led by Heidi Hammel with inputs from Martin Storksdieck and Michael Feder of the NRC Board on Science Education
 - The proposed transfer of E/PO funds from NASA has major implications for science education within SMD, and would severely impact educational programs that have clearly demonstrated success in reaching and motivating students.

Planetary Science/Astrobiology

- ***Astrobiology Update:***
 - CAN-7 call for proposals released
 - Two-step selection process
 - Fewer centers, more complimentary among centers
 - Astrobiology roadmap/2014 Strategic Plan moving forward
 - Website update: astrobiologyfuture.org
 - June Meeting of experts (SSB organized)
 - ❖ White papers (concepts) released
 - ❖ Second meeting planned early 2014