CAA Report

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CAA Co-Chairs

CAA reports to the BPA and the SSB

Disclaimer: These slides represent a personal assessment of the issues discussed by the CAA. This document should not be cited or quoted because the views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of CAA, SSB, BPA, or the NRC.

CAA Membership

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Eric M. Wilcots, University of Wisconsin, Madison
A. Thomas Young (NAE), Lockheed Martin (Ret.)

Most recent meeting:
29-31 March 2016
in conjunction with
Space Science Week.

“Tell us the one item you want to discuss, not a rehash of all you did”

Full meeting agenda and slides:

http://sites.nationalacademies.org/BPA/BPA_048755#pastpresentations

Preparations for Astro2020

- Lessons learned discussions
  - Alan Dressler (Survey of Surveys report) and Jackie Hewitt (Mid-decadal, report in review)
  - Discussions with the agencies (NASA, NSF AST, and DOE OHEP)
  - Scope and structure of NWNH (Astro2010)
- Report delivery timing considerations
  - Impact on budget cycle:
    - The Administration's FY22 request, the Congressional FY21 appropriations process, …
  - Events:
    - Survey process ideally in its early stages when JWST is deployed
  - Scope affects duration:
    - NWNH/Astro2010 experience: for a survey of similar scope, 24 months is viewed as "fast". Might shift some activities earlier.

Pre-survey Activities to Consider

- Science white papers
  - Done in advance for other surveys (*e.g.*, Earth Science)
  - Useful input for selecting the panels
  - More time for community preparation and engagement, better (shorter) white papers
- State of the profession study
  - Separable: different methodology and process from those of project/science prioritization
  - Published as a report in its own right. Valuable input to the decadal survey, which can emphasize the essential points
  - Timing: enable actionable answers to specific questions with a systematic study, but not stale by 2020
- CATE process goals and definition
  - Enable projects to prepare effectively and more uniformly, and build in mechanisms for iteration and feedback
  - Help ensure community understanding

Structure, Scope, and Boundaries

- Initial discussions suggest that the scope and boundaries for NWNH/Astro2010 could be similarly optimal for Astro2020. Some items to (re)consider include:
  - Ground-based GW astronomy
  - Studies of the Sun, particularly ground-based solar
  - Connections between exoplanets and astrobiology
  - Possible expanded DOE roles in CMB
  - International context
  - Formal involvement of NSF Physics
- Survey structure
  - Separate prioritization panel reports?
  - Consider timing of Chair selection

What's Next?

- Submit proposal for a Town Hall at the January AAS meeting to solicit community input (similar to what was done prior to Astro2010)
- Sequence of CAA telecons:
  - Results of the mid-decadal report
  - Specific issues (covered above), including draft science white paper solicitation for consideration
  - Develop notional survey timeline
- Follow-up discussions about a possible state-of-the-profession survey that is timely and useful
- Consider organizing a Consultation Group to meet in late summer to discuss the issues and directions.
  - Important input to the next CAA face-to-face meeting in October
- Full draft of Task statement by mid-2017

Discussion