

Current and Future Studies

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Space Studies Board
Washington, D.C.
28 April 2016

Review of NASA/PSD's Restructured R&A Program

Proposed by: James Green (Mary Voytek and Jonathan Rall)

Topic: Review of SMD/PSD reorganization of R&A programs for consistency with SMD science goals and past advice from the Academies

Actions Taken: Request letter received from NASA in 8/2015

Status: Funding received late last year and committee recruitment is completed. Committee appointed on 27/4/16. Plan to hold committee meetings on 12-13 May, 16-18 August and 14-16 September

Schedule: Deliver report to NASA in December 2016

Review of NASA/PSD's Restructured R&A Program

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Harvard University

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Workshop on Searching for Life Across Space and Time

Proposed by: John Grunsfeld

Topic: How to detect life in the solar system and extrasolar planetary systems

Actions Taken: SSB white paper delivered to NASA/SMD and formal request received from NASA/SMD in January 2016

Status: Funding received and beginning recruitment of organizing committee

Schedule: Workshop in late-2016/early-2017 and deliver a report to NASA in Spring of 2017

Statement of Task on page 137 of agenda book

Review of Planetary Protection Policy Development Processes

Proposed by: Ellen Stofan (and others) via SMD

Topic: How and by whom are planetary protection policies determined and what is interplay of Articles VI and IX of OST

Actions Taken: SSB white paper delivered to NASA in January 2015.
Multiple (conflicting) statements of task iterated back and forth between NASA and Academies throughout 2015.
Formal request for study received on 1 March 2016.
Approved by GBEC pending prioritization of tasks in SoT

Status: SoT prioritized, awaiting approval from EO before sending funding proposal to NASA

Schedule: Deliver report to NASA by December 2017

Planetary Protection for Outer Solar System Bodies

Proposed by: ESF via European Commission Horizon 2020 Funding Program

Topic: A 3-year activity to engage European and international space science community in the science, technology and policy aspects of PP, with a focus on the icy bodies of the outer solar system

Actions Taken: Extensive discussions between SSB and ESF on appropriate role for the SSB. The legal framework under which the Academies operates precluded formal involvement of the SSB in this activity. The SSB has observer status in this activity and has tentatively agreed to fund the formal participation of several US scientists in WP 3 and 5.

Status: First meeting of the PPOSS Steering Group held in Paris on 25 March

Schedule: Complete work on the various WPs by December 2018

Planetary Decadal Midterm Assessment

PUBLIC LAW 109–155—DEC. 30, 2005: “The performance of each division in the Science directorate of NASA shall be reviewed and assessed by the National Academy of Sciences at 5-year intervals.”

Vision and Voyages decadal survey released in March, 2011.

The Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science discussed items it would like to see in the statement of task for midterm review and forwarded them to SMD/PSD late last year.

Jim Green provided draft statement of task and likely schedule yesterday. Will likely begin work on midterm review late in 2016 and deliver report to NASA in early 2018.

Planetary Midterm and Next Decadal I

- 9-2015 CAPS drafts its desiderata for midterm SoT and sends to NASA
- 3-2016 NASA returns [slightly] edited version of CAPS SoT and indicates that request to initiate the midterm review will come in 9-2016
- 9-2016 NASA requests 2nd midterm assessment be initiated?
- 3-2017 First meeting of 2nd midterm assessment committee
- 1-2017 *Release of AO for New Frontiers 4*
- 12-2017 Second Midterm assessment report delivered
- 11/2017 *New Frontiers 4 down select*
- 10/2018 *New Frontiers 4 Phase A study report due*
- 5/2019 *New Frontiers 4 Selected*
- 9/2019 Organizing meeting for 3rd planetary decadal survey

Midterm and Next Planetary Decadal II

- 9/2019 Organizing meeting for 3rd planetary decadal survey?
- 10/2019 Statement of task finalized and survey formally initiated?
- 3/2020 Chair selected and announced
- 7/2020 Survey committee and panel meetings begin?
- 9/2021 First complete draft of survey report assembled?
- 3/2022 Survey report released