

CAA Report

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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.

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Eric M. Wilcots, University of Wisconsin, Madison

A. Thomas Young (NAE), Lockheed Martin (Ret.)

Most recent meeting:
27-29 March, 2018

[http://sites.nationalacademies.org/BPA/
BPA_048755](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/BPA/BPA_048755)

CAA Meeting Topics

- A jam-packed agenda!
- Meeting was held during a time of much uncertainty
 - Fluctuating budgets for agencies, outcomes mostly very good
 - Another launch delay for JWST was announced during the meeting, with the launch readiness date being confirmed by a special committee (T. Young)
- Anne Kinney, new head of the NSF Math and Physical Sciences Directorate, met with the Committee. Discussed Mid-decadal recommendation 3-2 on operations funding
- Continued Astro2020 preparations, many discussions, including about timing (again).
- WFIRST responses to WIETR, and next steps.
 - KDP-B was scheduled for April 11, 2018, but will now be May 22, 2018.
- An additional focus of the meeting was another Short Report, this time on the NASA Mission Concept Studies in preparation for the next Astronomy & Astrophysics Decadal.

Astro2020 Preparations

- The latest delay in the JWST launch coupled with the WFIRST issues has re-opened the question of when to start the survey
 - Question posed by T. Zurbuchen: move the Astro Decadal after the Planetary Decadal?
 - Further, timely discussions among the three funding agencies, the NAS, and the astronomical community needed
 - CAA is ready to issue a call for Science White Papers and nearly ready for call on Policy, Infrastructure and “State of the Profession”
- Committee discussed the role of State of the Profession in a decadal survey
 - Excellent feedback from the AAS Town Hall.
 - Very helpful discussions with Dara Norman (NOAO) and Alex Rudolph, Chair of the AAS Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. Discussed types of inputs that can be provided and aspects of the call for white papers.
 - Heard about an NAS event, funded by the Heising-Simons Foundation, to occur in October for early career astronomers to learn about the decadal process. Details at http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_185166

Mission Concept Studies Report

- NASA tasked the CAA to review its planned mission concept studies (large missions and probe-class missions) activities in preparation for the Decadal Survey and to write a short report.
 - Assess the appropriateness of NASA's plans and, if needed, provide findings toward improving the value to the Decadal Survey Committee.
- Four large mission concept studies are underway with final reports due to NASA HQ in June, 2019
 - NASA will conduct Independent Cost Assessments (but not CATEs)
 - Final reports and ICAs will be submitted to Astro2020
- Ten probe-class concept studies are in progress
 - Studies were selected through a peer-review process
 - Final study reports and ICAs will be produced and can serve as input to Astro2020

See <http://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/2020-decadal-survey-planning/>

Discussion