

Hi Pam & Eddie,

Thank you for our discussion from Thursday 13 October 2016. The SNOPAC members in attendance (AHarris, JLockman, JNousek, and myself) very much appreciate the project updates we received from EZavala, EYoung, MMcKelvey, and PMarcum/HYorke. Please extend our thanks to all who presented, and all the project personnel who attended and/or supported the meeting. Based on these inputs and subsequent discussions in Executive Session we would like provide you with the following feedback & input.

1) The SNOPAC was gratified to hear of the progress made in redefining SOFIA top-level mission requirements & parameters circa Sept 2015, and the excellent performance the SOFIA system has demonstrated in meeting those requirements in the past year. We appreciate the many technical and other challenges that the project has had to overcome in the past year, and congratulate the entire SOFIA team in their successful performance against the L-1 requirements.

2) The SNOPAC appreciates Erick Young's report on SOFIA Cycle 4 implementation and Cycle 5 solicitation. It is apparent that SOFIA science center operations are working well, and SOFIA users have an effective interface to plan and obtain new data. Erick is to be congratulated on successful stewardship of the SOFIA science program, and in transitioning science center leadership to new Director Hal Yorke. We wish Erick well in his retirement, and thank him for his long leadership in and service to the SOFIA community. Further we congratulate Hal in his new role with SOFIA.

3) Mark McKelvey gave an exciting report on new instrumentation capabilities: both HAWK+ and (later) HIRMES will be excellent additions to the SOFIA instrument portfolio. We look forward the hearing updates on both instruments (on HAWK+ commissioning completion and on HIRMES PDR & CDR) in the coming six months. While we think the HIRMES schedule is very "success-oriented", there appears to be little downside right now in pursuing such an aggressive schedule.

4) Thanks to Pam Marcum and Hal Yorke for leading a discussion of the anticipated SOFIA Senior Review in 2018. The SNOPAC appreciates the discussion of the SOFIA Senior Review format (i.e. 'site-visit' or 'collective'); we are not yet prepared to voice an opinion, but will take some time to consider this matter. Separately we endorse Hal Yorke's concepts for enhancing the SOFIA science community (Visiting Scientist program, focused science themes in future SOFIA solicitations), and recommend that the project work to implement these new initiatives.

5) We recommend to the SOFIA project that the SNOPAC be enlarged to incorporate a broader range of experiences and opinions, and going forward, to facilitate regular committee turnover succession.

5.1) The SNOPAC recommends the project consider one or two additional members to be added from the following prioritized list:

- + Carol Lonsdale (NRAO/ALMA Science Center & IPAC)
- + Lisa Storrie-Lombardi (Caltech/Spitzer)
- + Belinda Wilkes (Chandra Science Center)
- + Andrea Prestwich (Chandra Staff Scientist)
- + Shelley Wright (UCSD, Keck & TMT instrumentation)

5.2) SNOPAC will be working with the SOFIA project in the coming months to develop regular succession plans for SNOPAC members, but we appreciate that with the forthcoming Senior Review succession should proceed slowly.

6) The SNOPAC expressed a consensus desire to have more regular communication with the project. We believe the proper cadence for SNOPAC meetings is every three -- four months. Going forward SNOPAC will be working with the project to establish this more regular contact cadence, and to develop agenda items that support SOFIA science and project objectives.

- Andy Boden (on behalf of SNOPAC)

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