



## GEMINI BOARD MEETING

HILO, HAWAI'I – 9 – 10 MAY 2005

### Resolutions Arising from 9-10 May 2005 Meeting of the Gemini Board of Directors

**2005.A.1** The Board compliments the Observatory on the thorough review process carried out by the selection boards and review teams assembled to assess the design and feasibility studies for the Aspen instruments. The Board endorses the Director's selection of teams based on the HRNIRS and ExAOC design studies, and notes the review team recommendations to proceed to the Conceptual Design Review phase for GLAO and WFMOS.

The Board also accepts the recommendation of the WFMOS review team that WFMOS proceed only if it can be implemented on Subaru. The Board welcomes the offer of \$1M from Subaru toward joint conceptual design studies for WFMOS.

The Board thanks the WFMOS Science Working Group for their efforts in evaluating the WFMOS feasibility report and welcomes their comments on the quality, justification, and timeliness of its primary scientific programs. The Board recognizes the compelling, high priority science enabled by the WFMOS instrument and its potentially groundbreaking and unique mode of enabling both large survey and PI science under flexible operating and scheduling modes.

The Board also notes the comments of the GFC with regard to the integrity of the process by which cost estimates were arrived at for the Aspen instruments and the level of financial commitment identified by the agencies at the GFC meeting to provide a sum of \$75M over the five-year period 2006-2010 as a target for planning purposes.

The Board found the plan presented by the Director for realizing the Aspen science program within the \$75M planning envelope to be viable and to enable a maximum Aspen science return. The Board was also interested to see the range of options for various Aspen instrument combinations presented by the Observatory, including the model in which many of the capabilities of HRNIRS were realized in two separate instruments, and engaged in extended discussion about the relative merits of each of these options. The Board recognizes, however, that many developments remain – the relationship with Subaru needs to mature and become more fully defined, the results from the WFMOS and GLAO conceptual design studies need to be available, the role of GLAO in the Observatory's existing and future instrumentation complement must be considered and clarified.

**2005.A.2** The Board asks the Director to bring the options for instrumentation packages that fall within the budget planning envelope and his recommended instrumentation plan to the GSC. The Board anticipates that the GSC will provide recommendations to the Director concerning how well various packages achieve the high priority Aspen science



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goals, discuss whether plans for phasing are optimum, and consider ways to maintain options for Aspen instruments that are not yet in conceptual design phases. The Board encourages the Director and the GSC to carry out their discussions in such a way as to minimize conflicts of interest among GSC members and to obtain scientific advice that reflects the Gemini community's priorities and scientific interests.

The Board urges the GSC to engage in its discussions and formulate its recommendations for the Director as soon as possible. The Board expects to meet by telecon to consider the Director's final recommendation in the timeframe of approximately one month.

**2005.A.3** The Board notes the improvement in completion statistics for proposals in Band 1, and endorses the proposed actions to further maximize completion rates in Band 1 programs. The Board continues to support the philosophy that programs from all partners be included in Band 1 scheduling.

**2005.A.4** The Board recommends a minimum of 70% with a goal of 75% of science availability of nights for both Gemini North and Gemini South in semester 2006A. The Board understands that this fraction is determined by the heavy instrument commissioning load expected and that the science availability will increase if there are delays in instrument delivery or commissioning.

**2005.A.5** The Board congratulates the Gemini Adaptive Optics team on achieving laser first light at Gemini on schedule and very near specifications. The Board considers this a major achievement and looks forward to the full implementation of laser guide star capability for existing instruments and the realization of MCAO.

**2005.A.6** The Board endorses the GSC's recommendation on modifications to the originally proposed decommissioning plan of the Observatory, namely to retain the GMOS instruments on each of the telescopes until at least the end of 2008. The Board agrees that the Observatory should place a high priority on having continuous optical imaging/spectroscopy capability leading into the Aspen instrument commissioning era.

The Board endorses the other detailed features of the Observatory's decommissioning plan, such as moving GNIRS to Gemini North in 2007 in order to have a better balance of instruments between the two telescopes, decommissioning NIRI's spectroscopic modes, and exploring the possibility of decommissioning the spectroscopic modes of T-ReCS as well. The Board also endorses the principles expressed by the GSC regarding the announcement of changes in the availability of instruments, including making widely known the condition that any instruments not meeting the 16-night minimum in two consecutive semesters may be decommissioned, and providing a minimum notice of 3 years before the decommissioning of any facility instrument.

**2005.A.7** The Board supports the 'top level principles' proposed by the Observatory and



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endorsed by the GSC in conducting campaign science, including the requirement that PI science be enabled. The Board notes the 2005 April GSC Resolution 22.10, and the recommendation of the Director that affecting "planet-finding" science will be best executed in a campaign science mode. The Board directs the Observatory to move forward with the Letter of Intent for the formation of science teams, potentially drawn from across the partnership, for NICI campaign science to the Gemini community. The Board concurs that the ITAC be used to review the campaign proposals, and recommends that the GSC and its subcommittees provide science oversight and operational guidance.

As NICI represents the first experiment in campaign science in the spirit of future Aspen campaign activities, Board discussion has identified additional issues, in part related to partner participation, time contributions, and partner commitment that need further review. The Board recognizes that individual member representatives and their advisory structures require an opportunity to consult with one another to examine recent recommendations of the OPSWG and GSC. The Board expects that this consultative action shall be completed expeditiously, and that each partner deliver a sense of their communities. At its November 2005 meeting the Board expects to ratify the mechanics by which Aspen campaign science will be carried out.

We note that a tenet of the Aspen initiative is enabling the Observatory as a partnership to address transformative science questions, that as individual countries would be difficult to join.

**2005.A.8** The Gemini Board approves the revised 2004 Operations Budget of \$26,007,328.

**2005.A.9** The Gemini Board approves the revised 2005 Operations Budget of \$41,440,302.

**2005.A.10** The Board notes the concern expressed by the AOC-G regarding the HBF and CP dorm. The Board encourages the Observatory and AURA to pursue all options to facilitate their construction.

**2005.A.11** The Board notes, with considerably mixed feelings, the announced intention of its Director to assume the leadership of another of the world's premier astronomical organizations, the Space Telescope Science Institute.

From the time of his appointment as Project Scientist through his tenure as Director, Dr. Mountain has shown exceptional vision, skill, knowledge and energy in bringing the Gemini Observatory from plans on paper to the first-rate research facility it is today. The Board has appreciated the candor he has always shown in our discussions and the scientific vision that he brings to every debate.



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In the summary of our 2004 retreat to consider the future of the Observatory, we stated:

“Among our strengths are the breadth of the partnership, the diversity and depth of our communities and staffs, our connections with other institutions sharing common scientific aspirations, and the energy and vision of our Observatory.”

We owe a large fraction of this strength to Matt. As his legacy, it will carry the Observatory forward into the Aspen era and beyond. We wish him every success in the next stage of his career, and thank him sincerely for the service that he has rendered to this partnership.

**2005.A.12** The Board endorses the Observatory's planned change in management structure to provide increased oversight of the national Gemini offices at senior management levels. The Board also supports the Observatory's plan for transition in the management of science operations to provide continuity through the period until a new director is identified and in place.

**2005.A.13** The Board thanks Jean-Rene Roy for his willingness to assume the role of Acting Gemini Director while the search for a permanent director is carried out.

**2005.A.14** The Board thanks Gary Da Costa for his service on the Gemini Board, as representative of Australia and on behalf of the partnership. His recognition that the strength of Gemini lay in the partnership was a welcome reminder of the uniqueness, capability and value of Gemini in the global astronomical community.



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**Actions Arising from the Meeting of the Gemini Board of Directors – May 2005**

**To the Gemini Board:** To Board members on the search committee for a new Gemini director to provide comments to AURA on the terms of reference for the Gemini director search process. The revised terms of reference will be circulated to the Board for their review before being adopted by AURA.