



# GEMINI BOARD MEETING

## 15-17 MAY 2024

### RESOLUTIONS

#### Resolutions Arising from the 15-17 May Gemini Board Meeting

#### GEMINI BOARD OF DIRECTORS: MAY 2024

*The Board met in person and by videoconference on 15-17 May 2024.*

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

*The Board prepared the following acknowledgements.*

The Board welcomes and thanks Matthew Viau, the new Gemini Board Executive Secretary.

The Board congratulates and thanks Scott Dahm for his smooth transition as the new Gemini Interim Director.

The Board welcomes and thanks Andreas Seifert for his work and expertise as the new Associate Director of Development.

The Board welcomes Julien Rousselle as the new Head of Engineering Ops for Gemini-North.

The Board thanks Julian Christou for their work in streamlining the safe use of the laser guide star facility.

The Board thanks John Komeji, John de Fries, and Rich Matsuda for sharing their knowledge and perspectives to begin a shared journey to build relationships and trust. The Board looks forward to working with MKSOA in the future.

The Board thanks the NSF Hawaiian engagement members for clarifying the appropriate roles for Gemini staff to engage with the local community. The Board welcomes and thanks Leinani Lozi for our new Hawaiian engagement plans embedded at Gemini-North.

The Board enthusiastically supports the new Hawaiian engagement plans embedded at Gemini-North as presented by Leinani Lozi. The Hawaiian Cultural Residency program will help the Gemini staff with best practices, advising, and protocols for building trusting relationships with members of the local communities. We look forward to reading a full report at the December GBOD meeting.

The Board congratulates our Argentinian partner community on their successful scientific results using the new Gemini-South GHOST spectrograph to find variations in the natal abundances of two stars in a binary pair, suggesting that variations occur during star formation.

The Board wishes to recognize Debra Fischer (NSF) and Inger Jorgeson (NOIRlab) for their strong advocacy for developing solar power plants and zero carbon operations goals in Chile.

The Board thanks Steve Howell (NASA Ames) for his help and support as former Board chair.



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The Board would like to acknowledge the significant in-kind contributions from our international partner member institutions, including KASI towards IGRINS-2 and NRC towards GHOST, GIRMOS, and GPI2.0.

**RESOLUTIONS:** The Board prepared a set of resolutions and recommendations.  
*The Board has approved these resolutions for public release.*

**2024.A.1. Gemini FY24 Portfolio Report and Development Report.** The Board thanks Gemini for the FY24a Portfolio report and Development report. The Portfolio topics in Appendix A and Figure 1 are notable and beneficial. The Board requests that the comment on delays and roadblocks in the Executive Summaries of both reports be more explicit to SCORPIO to avoid confusion on which contractors or projects are impacted.

**2024.A.2. SCORPIO Management Presentation.** The Board supports the STAC and NMOC recommendations regarding ongoing communications and collaborative efforts with SwRI as described in the management presentation on SCORPIO. As the Board cannot endorse the SCORPIO instrument plan further (without end-to-end costing, an accurate schedule, a risk register, and a critical path analysis), then the Board recommends the following:

**2024.A.2.a.** Gemini/ NOIRlab evaluate, quantify, and mitigate the SCORPIO delivery schedule risk and cost risk for work from both SwRI and at Gemini, including unplanned but highly likely cost growth.

**2024.A.2.b.** Gemini / NOIRlab review all software requirements for SCORPIO, from integration and testing through commissioning, data reduction, and data products.

**2024.A.2.c.** Gemini / NOIRlab continue to work with the SCORPIO independent review committee for ongoing feedback and oversight, and to ensure accountability.

**2024.A.3. STAC Report and Recommendations.** The Board thanks the STAC for their detailed report and review of Gemini instrument projects. The Board supports their division into three categories. It endorses their priorities with one deviation: a majority of the Board support a higher prioritization for transferring MAROON-X to a facility class instrument after accounting for the higher priority resource requirements. The Board also endorses the STAC recommendations (26.13) to re-open the existing Strategic Plan survey and on how to increase response rates and diversity of targeted information for future surveys.

**2024.A.4. Appointment of STAC Deputy Chair.** The Board supports the STAC recommendation for Breann Sitariski as its Deputy Chair. The Board will follow the STAC Terms of Reference processes as the time comes to select the next STAC Chair.

**2024.A.5. Gemini Operations & Management.** The Board recommends that Gemini integrate the prioritization of Operations & Management tasks (including software) and Development projects (including instrumentation). The Board is concerned about insufficient resources to manage existing priorities (instrumentation and software requirements) simultaneously with new instrumentation plans and other aspirations.



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**2024.A.6. SUSD and Software Group Resources.** Considering the upcoming instrumentation requirements and user requests for accessible data reduction pipelines, the Board is concerned by the increasing pressure and lack of resources available to SUSD and the software group. The Board recommends the following:

**2024.A.6.a.** NOIRLab and Gemini assess software needs and identify opportunities, risks, and solutions to mitigate the increase in project pressure.

**2024.A.6.b.** NOIRLab and Gemini identify opportunities and barriers to closer cooperation and sharing of resources between the Gemini Software Group, SUSD, and NOIRLab software resources. Such collaborations may include adding software to the matrix and information sharing. The Board recognizes such collaboration has the potential to lead to greater diffusion of knowledge between astronomers and software engineers at NOIRLab and Gemini, and asks that this review include that sufficient expertise remains within groups to effectively address software resourcing issues.

**2024.A.6.c.** The Board recommends that the SUSD and software group rank their efforts to ensure the top-priority projects get sufficient resources to meet deadlines.

**2024.A.7. AURA Corporate contracts support.** The Board recommends that AURA Corporate prioritize contractual and MoU requirements by providing expertise and experience commensurate with the complexity of the projects.

**2024.A.8. External Contract Competitions.** The Board recommends that any delivery or performance-based incentives—such as additional monetary payments or telescope time—during the evaluation of a competitive external contract be negotiated after the competition selection process has been completed to ensure fair competition practices.

**2024.A.9. Indirect Cost Rates.** The Board endorses the efforts between AURA/NOIRLab/Gemini Observatory to develop a new model to calculate indirect cost rates that can be implemented as soon as possible.

**2024.A.10. Allocation of Gemini Time.** The Board recommends the Gemini Directorate explore a small amount of exchange time between Gemini North and South for the Gemini partners with restricted access (U.H. and Chile).

**2024.A.11. O&M Solvency.** The Board recommends that Gemini /NOIRlab examine O&M spending forecasts to identify and explore ways to mitigate any possibilities for O&M spending to exceed partner contributions while delivering on the top priorities.

**2024.A.12. Strategic Science Plan vs Vision Plan.** The Board recommends that the Gemini Strategic Science Plan evolve into a Gemini Vision 2030 Plan to be better aligned with the expectations outlined in the U.S. Decadal Report (Astro2020) and Canadian Long-Range Plan (LRP2020). The Board recommends that Gemini /NOIRlab review and summarize the purpose, scope, and audience for this Plan, including efforts to engage with the Hawaiian and Chilean communities that align with the expectations for Community Science.