



**GEMINI BOARD MEETING  
11-13 DECEMBER 2024  
RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolutions Arising from the 11-13 December Gemini Board Meeting**

**GEMINI BOARD OF DIRECTORS: DECEMBER 2024**

*The Board met in person and by videoconference on 11-13 December 2024.*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

*The Board prepared the following acknowledgements.*

The Board thanks Rene Rutten for outstanding service as the Deputy Director.

The Board thanks Dr. Guillermo Bosch for his many years of service as the Gemini Board member for Argentina. The Board welcomes Dr. Luciano Garcia as the interim member representative from Argentina, and thanks him for joining us upon request from the National Director of Strategic Planning and International Affairs. The Board welcomes the letter signed by the National Director of Strategic planning and International Affairs (representing the Secretariat of Innovation, Science, and Technology of Argentina) expressing Argentina's intention to continue its participation as a member of the International Gemini Observatory for the period of 2028-2033.

The Board thanks Leinani Lozi and Manuel Paredes for presenting their community engagement, education, and outreach activities in Hawaii and Chile; and, special thanks to Leinani Lozi for her successful efforts to engage a Hawaiian cultural practitioner to help the Gemini-North staff.

The Board thanks the NSF for informing us of their upcoming "P3 - Portfolio Prioritization Process" to rank existing facilities and quantify future budget needs, including possible divestments. We look forward to hearing more at future meetings.

The Board thanks the Gemini Directorate for incorporating changes that were previously requested to improve the reports for the Board and STAC meetings.

The Board thanks NOIRLab for the development of a central Data Management & Software (DMS) office, the planned hiring of a new Chief Technical Officer to oversee and coordinate software developments, and the intent to increase the number of US NGOs to support science and data reduction software. The Board looks forward to hearing more at future meetings and how the new hires can help with SUSD and software needs at Gemini.

The Board commends OPCC (Oficina de Protección de la Calidad del Cielo del Norte de Chile) for their efforts in promoting policies and practices that preserve the Dark Skies at Cerro Tololo and Cerro Pachón. Additionally, the Board recognizes the importance of the national level 'norma' policies adopted by the Chilean government to safeguard this invaluable resource.

The Board notes the extensive work to move SCORPIO toward completion.



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*The Board has prepared a set of resolutions and approved them for public release.*

**2024.B.1. Gemini Assessment Point Result.** The Board has initiated the Assessment Point discussion in accordance with Article 4 of the International Gemini Agreement. The designated members from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Korea, and the USA provided thoughts on the process for developing the next international agreement. All partners affirmed their commitment to the development of that agreement.

**2024.B.2. Financial Reporting.** The Board appreciated the improved clarity of the new financial reporting process and markedly improved report as submitted. The Board encourages Gemini to continue their detailed financial and spending reviews to ensure the projected budget will remain within available funding through 2027.

**2024.B.3. The Gemini North Adaptive Optics System (GNAO).** The Board supports the STAC recommendation on the GNAO project after the AOB Preliminary Design Review (PDR) findings in Oct 2024 to prepare GNAO for a second deformable mirror to meet its facility-feed MCAO requirements if funding can be found in the future. The Board endorses the quick study of this option on GNAO and any other project impacts and would support reassembly of the PDR evaluation committee to assess the results.

**2024.B.4. The Gemini Infrared Multi-Object Spectrograph (GIRMOS).** The Board has been informed that the GIRMOS project will require additional funding to reach its baseline requirements and more to reach its top scientific potential. The Board supports the GIRMOS team in exploring opportunities for additional funding.

**2024.B.5. GNAO and GIRMOS.** The Board is concerned about how changes to GNAO may impact GIRMOS, as their PDR review panels have examined these projects independently and encourage discussions between the GNAO and GIRMOS teams.

**2024.B.6. STAC Recommendation on MPP.** The Board supports a robust, cross-cutting prioritization process, which may include the STAC recommendation for a Master Project Plan.

**2024.B.7. STAC Recommendation on Gemini Multi-Conjugate Adaptive Optics System (GeMs).** The Board does not endorse the STAC recommendation on limiting GeMS access. The Board recognizes the costs and challenges in O&M for GeMS, but also the unique science and technical opportunities it enables and supports. The Board asks Gemini to investigate possibilities such as a visitor observing mode or possibly moving GeMS to the equivalent of a visitor instrument.

**2024.B.8. Rocky World Gemini DDT.** The Board endorses the STAC recommendations to reevaluate the use of director's discretionary time for the Rocky World Gemini proposal.

**2024.B.9. GLASS Pre-Proposal Wrap-Up.** The Board recognizes the Gemini activities related to GLASS, including preparing it for an invitation to apply for NSF funding. If invited, the Board



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recommends a discussion of how GLASS would impact Gemini funding and resources overall before going forward with the next step of the proposal.

**2024.B.10. SUSD Software Workload.** The Board remains concerned that many software and SUSD projects are behind schedule due to lack of resources and challenging priorities. The upcoming hiring of the NOIRLab Chief Technology Officer is an opportunity to consider reevaluation of the way these teams are structured and operated. The Board encourages an external review of the practices, organization, and priorities of their software and SUSD teams.

**2024.B.11. Cybersecurity Report and Plan.** The Board requests, as in November 2023 and May 2024, an “incident response plan” and “communications plan” to understand how Gemini is prepared for, and will respond to, future cyber-attacks and minimize the loss of observing time and staff access to resources they need to do their work. As previously noted, the 59-day shutdown of both telescopes last year and the inability of most staff to work during that period were unacceptable. In addition, the Board is concerned that neither telescope can be operated without internet access, and requests that backup options for operations at the site are available.

**2024.B.12. NOIRLab Action Plan.** The Board is glad to see that NOIRlab is implementing an Action Plan in response to the Climate Survey from 2023. Several components of the Action Plan were presented, and are encouraging, however these were presented as individual actions, and it is not clear how they fit into a comprehensive Action Plan. Components of the Action Plan that were presented in the May 2024 Board meeting seem to be missing, such as pulse surveys. The Board is concerned that there has been no feedback from staff surveys to assess the early impacts of the Action Plan. The Board also asks NOIRlab to consider renaming “entrusted leaders” to “advocates” or similar. The Board requests a written copy of the Action Plan within the next quarter of 2025A.