



STScI | SPACE TELESCOPE
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE ASTRONOMY

October 2022 Space Telescope Users Committee

Molly Peeples on behalf of the HST Science Policies Group

October 20, 2022



Introductions

- New STUC members: Misty Bentz (Georgia State) and Saurabh Jha (Rutgers)
- Nancy Levenson (former STScI Deputy Director) is now STScI Interim Director; Marc Postman is new STScI Interim Deputy Director
- Laura Watkins and Elena Sabbi are new Science Mission Office Deputies



Updates on Items since the May 2022 Meeting

- “Because the gyros have lower reliability than other components, the STUC recommends that STScI continue to consider the impacts of moving to 1-gyro mode on science operations, including what types of observations are possible (and impossible to schedule) during 1-gyro operations.”
 - These impacts were well-studied in 2016 (see links from May 2022 meeting’s outerspace page); STScI and GSFC continue to keep an eye on the situation.
- “Concern was raised around proposals that request large programs on both JWST and HST that require joint programs and the question of which TAC will make the awarding decision.”
 - The upcoming Call for Proposals will indicate that joint large proposals should go to the TAC for the observatory requesting the most resources, with a 1 orbit = 1 hour equivalency.
- “the STUC also recommends including a brief questionnaire about the panel climate as part of the post-TAC survey of panelists.”
 - This suggestion came too late to be taken into account for the Cycle 30 survey, but we have made note of it for the Cycle 31 survey.



Updates on Items since the May 2022 Meeting

- Flexible ToO Thursdays: “The STUC was generally supportive of this proposal but wanted to get a better handle on the demand there would be for such observations ... Although the idea of setting aside a single day each month to perform disruptive TOO observations, the STUC advised flexibility in which Thursday this should be, given that some programs that require strict monitoring cadence, e.g. hard-to-schedule exoplanet transit observations, could still end up being interrupted.”
 - The Flexible ToO Thursdays (naming to-be-finalized) will be included in the Cycle 31, and the STUC’s concerns are being taken into account with the policy implementations.
- “the STUC does not endorse a transition to zero EAP for Cycle 31. Instead, we strongly recommend that STScI take steps to solicit broader community feedback on this potential policy change. ... The STUC requests to see the results of this information gathering at a future meeting.”
 - See draft survey emailed earlier this week, and discussion time set aside this afternoon.



Updates on Items since the May 2022 Meeting

- “The STUC requested that at the next meeting in October 2022, STScI will present information on the grant procedures such that the process and motivations could be reviewed and communicated to the community.”
 - See Tom Brown’s presentation tomorrow morning.
- “The STUC suggested the inclusion of STUC members at the STScI booth at AAS conferences, the inclusion of information at Town Hall events, and the production of a newsletter associated with the release of the STUC report.”
 - See newsletter by Jamie Kennea in August 2022. Neill Reid advertised the STUC and communication with the STUC at the STScI Town Hall at the June AAS. **Please contact Neill Reid (inr@stsci.edu) if you will be in attendance at the January 2023 AAS meeting in Seattle.**
- “... the STUC encourages the STScI Director to start the process of definition of this future program by requesting community input on ideas for “The Next Large Director's Discretionary Project” to follow ULLYSES.”
 - Nancy Levenson’s presentation will address this!



Other Items of Note

- Update regarding grants with investigators at non-US institutions

“STScI funding shall not be used in any way to support non-U.S. investigators or their activities. All program personnel including but not limited to PI’s, Co-I’s, Postdocs, Graduate Students, Students, Visitors, other Research Personnel, and Support Staff, must meet the eligibility requirements of a U.S. investigator prior to receiving funding. *(Previously, eligibility requirements must be met at the time of budget submission. The new criterion allows a person to propose prior to employment with a U.S. institution).* A non-U.S. investigator is anyone who does not meet the criteria in this Section. All costs incurred to support non-U.S. investigators (either directly or indirectly) are unallowable, and funds expended on such costs must be returned to STScI.

A U.S. citizen, a U.S. permanent resident, or an individual with an appropriate U.S. work visa, whose research will be conducted while employed by a U.S. institution. Research efforts by investigators employed solely by foreign institutions (including contractually) are not eligible for funding, whether proposed directly by a foreign organization, or as part of a proposal submitted by a U.S. organization, with the following exceptions: 1) An eligible U.S. institution may request support for an individual investigator who is not currently employed by their institution, but will establish employment prior to receiving funding. 2) U.S. institutions may fund investigators who are jointly employed *(Previously, people with joint appointments – U.S./Foreign – were not eligible to apply for or receive grant funds.)* with a U.S./non-U.S. institution, commensurate with the amount of their time employed by the US institution. For example, if there is a 70/30 (U.S./foreign) appointment, the investigator could fund up to 70% of their support (the U.S. portion) this way.”

- Tom Brown will give a longer presentation on grants, reporting, etc., tomorrow morning



Other Items of Note

- Program completion limits:
 - New requirements that programs must execute in N+1 cycles (for N=cycles in Phase 1 request); currently, ~80% of large programs are completed in N+1 cycles
 - 1-year extension to N+2 years possible
 - Further extensions only in case of exceptional events, e.g., telescope safing
 - Related: observations with 6+ orbit visits must be justified in the Phase I Special Requirements section and approved by the TAC (these are the hardest to schedule and often lead to programs being difficult to complete)
 - Tom Brown will give an update on the Long Range Plan during his presentation
- Note that while Hubble's Cycle 31 will be relatively short (~10 months), JWST's Cycle 3 schedule means Cycle 32 schedule (deadlines, etc.) will be more "normal"
- SpaceX / NASA / STScI study regarding Hubble Orbit Boost study: Tom Brown will discuss this during his presentation this morning
- Questions about use of Hubble data in Citizen Science projects: Christine Pulliam will address this during her presentation from the Office of Public Outreach this afternoon