



STScI | SPACE TELESCOPE
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE ASTRONOMY

Dual anonymous proposal review Workshop @ STScI 25/9/2019

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STUC, November 13 2019



Basis

- NASA is moving to dual anonymous proposal reviews for all GO/GI programs

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



June 7, 2019

To: Distribution (Astrophysics GO Leads)
From: SMD/Director of Astrophysics
Re: Dual Anonymous Peer Reviews for Astrophysics GO Programs

In June 2018, the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) conducted a dual anonymous peer review for Cycle 26 of the Hubble General Observer (GO) program¹. The dual anonymous peer review addresses many issues of implicit bias. STScI's implementation of dual anonymous peer review was successful in Cycle 26. During June 2019, STScI will be conducting the Hubble Cycle 27 peer review, again using the dual anonymous process. STScI and NASA will review the Cycle 27 experience and outcomes to assess the dual anonymous practice.

In the absence of any contra-indications from the Hubble Cycle 27 peer review, I am directing all NASA Astrophysics GO programs to use dual anonymous peer reviews beginning in CY 2020.

In order to provide all NASA Astrophysics GO program leads with the benefit of STScI's experience, STScI will host a workshop in Fall 2019 to share their practices, lessons learned, and extant documentation with all other missions.

If you have any questions, please address them to your HQ Program Scientist or to me.

Paul Hertz
Director, Astrophysics Missions
Science Mission Directorate



Attendees

- Representatives from NASA missions
 - Chandra, NuStar, Fermi, Swift, NICER, TESS, SOFIA, Athena, Spitzer, SPHEREx, XRISM
- ESA
 - XMM-Newton
- Ground-based observatories
 - ESO
 - Gemini
 - NOAO
 - NRAO
 - ALMA
 - NSO



Agenda

Morning session: Facts and foundations

Time	Speaker(s)	Title
08:30	Ken Sembach	Welcome & introduction
08:45	Stefanie Johnson (Colorado)	Unconscious bias in reviews
09:15	Neill Reid (STScI)	HST TAC structure and proposal stats – before and after
09:30	Arvind Parmar (ESA)	ESA AO outcomes
09:45	Louis Strolger (STScI)	Preparing the community
10:15	Christina Richey (JPL), Rupali Chandar (Toledo), Brian Williams (GSFC)	Community reactions
10:45		Coffee
11:00	Svea Hernandez, Crystal Mannfolk, Greg Snyder (STScI)	Panel support perspective + levelers
11:45	Priya Natarajan (Yale), Saurabh Jha (Rutgers), Rupali Chandar (Toledo)	Panel chairs & panelist perspective
12:30	Jessica Kirk (Memphis)	Watching the TAC
13:00		Lunch



Agenda

Afternoon session: Spreading the word

iTme	Mode	Title
13:30	Molly Peeples (STScI)	Lessons learned so far from the HST TAC process
14:00	Breakout sessions: 3-4 sub-groups	Challenges for individual observatories – discussion
15:30	Plenary session	Challenges – report out
16:00	Plenary session	Summary and next steps

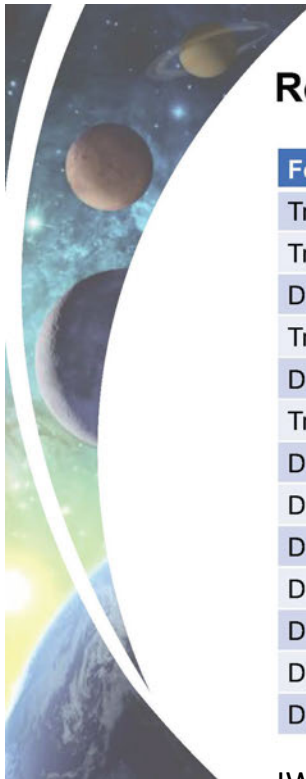


Discussion summary

- All observatories/missions agreed that there are no insuperable obstacles to implementing the dual anonymous process for their proposal reviews.
- Resources: There were concerns about the level of resources required to support the dual anonymous process.
 - Software development for proposal tools
 - Personnel to serve as levelers, especially for smaller missions
 - Central pool of trained personnel?
- Conflict of interest: develop a shared database of personal conflicts?
- Possible adjustments to the process:
 - Track record – use an automated technique to recover the publication records for proposal teams
 - But how do you weigh PIs and co-Is?
 - Providing well-developed data reduction pipelines is a mechanism for helping support inexperienced observers with a limited track record.
 - Additional factors: set grey areas for proposals close to the accept/reject boundary, and provide access to additional information for those proposals, such as student P and the, type of institution.
- Publicising the process: establish breakout sessions at an AAS meeting, together with discussion of the changes in the NASA Town Hall.
- Metrics: establish appropriate metrics to track the results, cross-mission, going forward.



NASA schedule



Rollout of Dual-Anonymous Reviews

Format	Program	Proposal due date
Traditional	NICER Cycle 2	11/13/2019
Traditional	TESS Cycle 3	1/16/2020
Dual-Anonymous	NuSTAR Cycle 6	1/24/2020
Traditional	Fermi Cycle 13	2/19/2020
Dual-Anonymous	Hubble Cycle 28	3/4/2020
Traditional	Chandra Cycle 22	~3/2020
Dual-Anonymous	Swift Cycle 17	~9/2020
Dual-Anonymous	NICER Cycle 3	~11/2020
Dual-Anonymous	TESS Cycle 4	~1/2021
Dual-Anonymous	NuSTAR Cycle 7	~1/2021
Dual-Anonymous	Fermi Cycle 14	~2/2021
Dual-Anonymous	Hubble Cycle 29	TBD
Dual-Anonymous	Chandra Cycle 23	~3/2021

← Pilot study

JWST Cycle 1 will be dual anonymous – deadline May 1 2020

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