

Cycle 3 TAC Feedback: JSTUC discussion topics

To make the most of our discussion time I've split up the key feedback topics according to what the JSTUC can do now.

We got lots of feedback that can be boiled down to two major takeaways:

- 1) The scale of the review process is straining the system and causing problems.
- 2) Science categories, including how proposals are classified and reviewed and how time is allocated by subfield, need to be updated.

The vast majority of comments ultimately fell into one of these two categories, although there were a few other concerns that got repeated a lot and are worth noting...

Cycle 3 TAC Feedback: JSTUC discussion topics

Big Easy Changes

(JSTUC can make progress immediately)

Big Difficult Changes

(JSTUC can contribute to long-term planning)

Small Easy Changes

(JSTUC can advise on priorities and immediate progress)

Small Difficult Changes

(JSTUC can discuss, advise on priorities and planning)

Cycle 3 TAC Feedback: JSTUC discussion topics

Big Easy Changes

(JSTUC can make progress immediately)

page limits

Big Difficult Changes

(JSTUC can contribute to long-term planning)

coping with scale of review

updating science categories

pressure on science categories

Small Easy Changes

(JSTUC can advise on priorities and immediate progress)

communicating with field

duplicate target handling

template policy

review timeline

Small Difficult Changes

(JSTUC can discuss, advise on priorities and planning)

scoring rubric

updating size categories

ToO handling

conflict handling

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page limits

Even with the proposed Cycle 4 plan, these are the longest telescope proposals in the field:

Proposal Category	JWST Cycle 3	HST Cycle 32	Proposed JWST Cycle 4
Small GO	8	8	8
Medium GO	10	9	9
Large GO	12	11	11
Treasury GO	12	11	11
Calibration GO/AR	8	8	8
Survey/Snapshot	8	8	8
Regular AR	9	8	8
Theory AR	9	8	8
Legacy AR	12	11	11

review timeline ✓

conflict handling

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review timeline ✓

Big Difficult Changes

(JSTUC can contribute to long-term planning)

By comparison:

Facility	"GO"	"Large"
Chandra	4	6
Swift	4	6
Fermi	4	6
TESS*	4	6
ALMA	4	6
NOIRLab	4	6

*also has 2pg "mini" category

conflict handling

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communicating with field

Clear communication with the field as a whole and reviewers is needed.

Examples/issues that came up during Cycle 3 TAC include:

- existence and treatment of Very Small category
- current MIRI status
- handling of duplications
- details of Dual Anonymous Review/self-plagiarism policies
- ToO handling, prioritization, multi-cycle duration
- handling of template violations

(this is already on the radar but worth emphasizing going forward...)

review timeline ✓

conflict handling

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Big Easy Changes

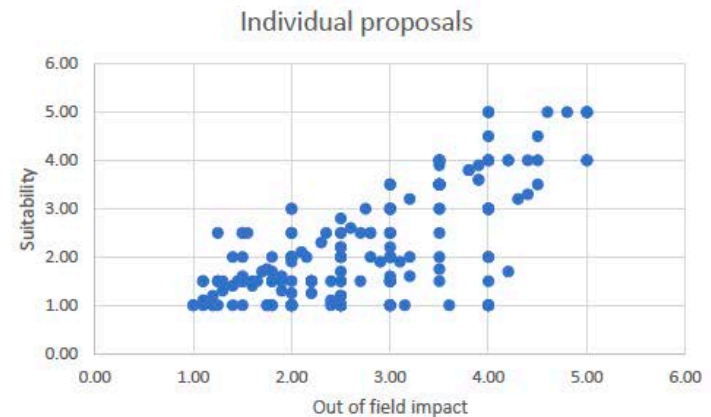
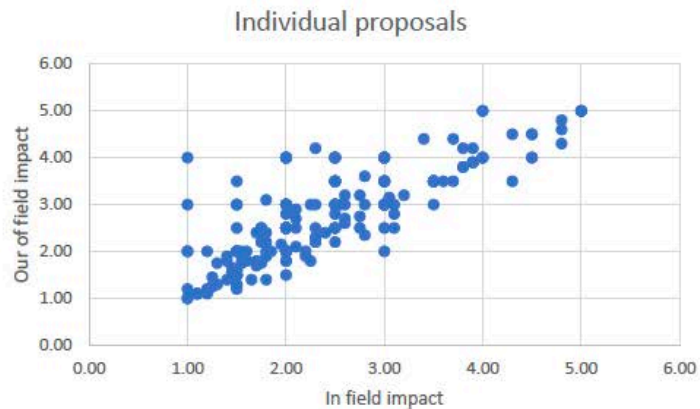
(JSTUC can make progress immediately)

Big Difficult Changes

(JSTUC can contribute to long-term planning)

scoring rubric

We have data from Neill...



...and feedback from the EC and panelists...

review timeline ✓

conflict handling

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Big Easy Changes

(JSTUC can make progress immediately)

Big Difficult Changes

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[coping with scale of review](#)

This is clearly a larger and lengthier discussion and is already being partly addressed by some existing changes (page limits, review timescale, etc.), but a few points came up over and over:

- current method is starting to break down at this scale
- concern about the scale continuing to spiral (Cycle 4 > 2000??), particularly regarding resubmissions
- fatigue and morale problems among panelists related to oversubscription rate

Do we need more discussion? More data? A dedicated task force?

review timeline ✓

conflict handling

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Big Easy Changes

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page limits **WORK IN PROGRESS**

Big Difficult Changes

(JSTUC can contribute to long-term planning)

coping with scale of review **WORK IN PROGRESS**

updating science categories?

pressure on science categories?

Small Easy Changes

(JSTUC can advise on priorities and immediate progress)

communicating with field **WORK IN PROGRESS**

duplicate target handling ✓

template policy ?

review timeline ✓

Small Difficult Changes

(JSTUC can discuss, advise on priorities and planning)

scoring rubric **WORK IN PROGRESS**

updating size categories ?

ToO handling ?

conflict handling ?