

# Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee (AAAC)

- Grew out of OMB (and congressional) interest in optimizing return on astronomy investment (cost-effectiveness....) - minimizing duplication etc (“put astronomy under one roof”...)
- COMRAA study (Committee on the Organization and Management of Research in Astronomy and Astrophysics) ⇒ explicit recommendation for AAAC-like committee
- Established by Congress in 2002 NSF Authorization Act and formally constituted late 2003
- Committee membership is 13: selected by OSTP, NSF, NASA
- Informal DOE involvement ⇒ formal role expected.
- Report submitted by March 15 of each year to Congress & Agency Directors/Administrators - first report March 2004.

# Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee: Congressional Language

## EC. 23. ASTRONOMY AND ASTROPHYSICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) Establishment.--The Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall jointly establish an Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the "Advisory Committee").

(b) Duties.--The Advisory Committee shall--

(1) **assess, and make recommendations regarding, the coordination of astronomy and astrophysics programs of the Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;**

(2) **assess, and make recommendations regarding, the status of the activities of the Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as they relate to the recommendations contained in the National Research Council's 2001 report entitled "Astronomy and Astrophysics in the New Millennium", and the recommendations contained in subsequent National Research Council reports of a similar nature;** and

(3) not later than **March 15** of each year, transmit a report to the Director, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate on the Advisory Committee's findings and recommendations under paragraphs (1) and (2).

# Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee: Congressional Language (cont.)

- \*\*** (c) Membership.--The Advisory Committee shall consist of 13 members, none of whom shall be a Federal employee, including--

  - (1) 5 members selected by the Director;
  - (2) 5 members selected by the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and
  - (3) 3 members selected by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
- (d) Selection Process.--Initial selections under subsection (c) shall be made within 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as provided in subsection (c).
- (e) Chairperson.--The Advisory Committee shall select a chairperson from among its members.
- \*\*** (f) Coordination.--The Advisory Committee shall coordinate with the advisory bodies of other Federal agencies, such as the Department of Energy, which may engage in related research activities.
- (g) Compensation.--The members of the Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation, but shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code.
- \*\*** (h) Meetings.--The Advisory Committee shall convene, in person or by electronic means, at least 4 times a year.
- (i) Quorum.--A majority of the members serving on the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum for purposes of conducting the business of the Advisory Committee.
- (j) Duration.--Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the Advisory Committee.

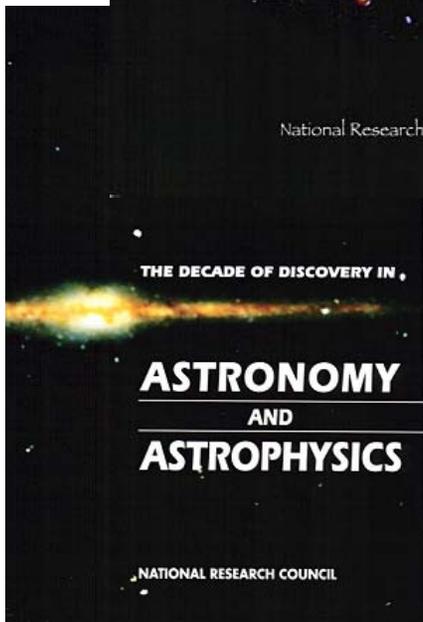
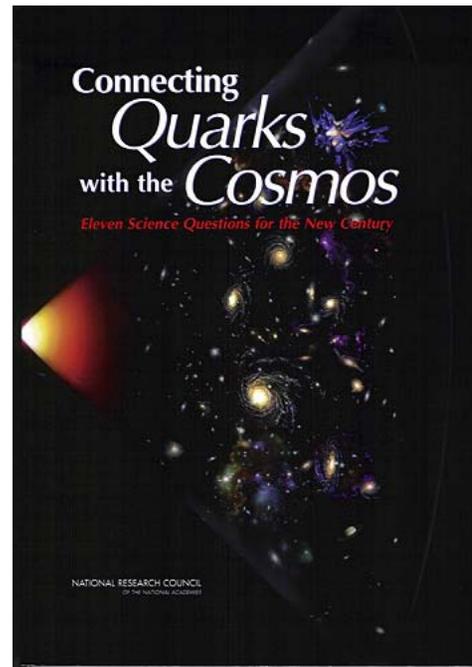
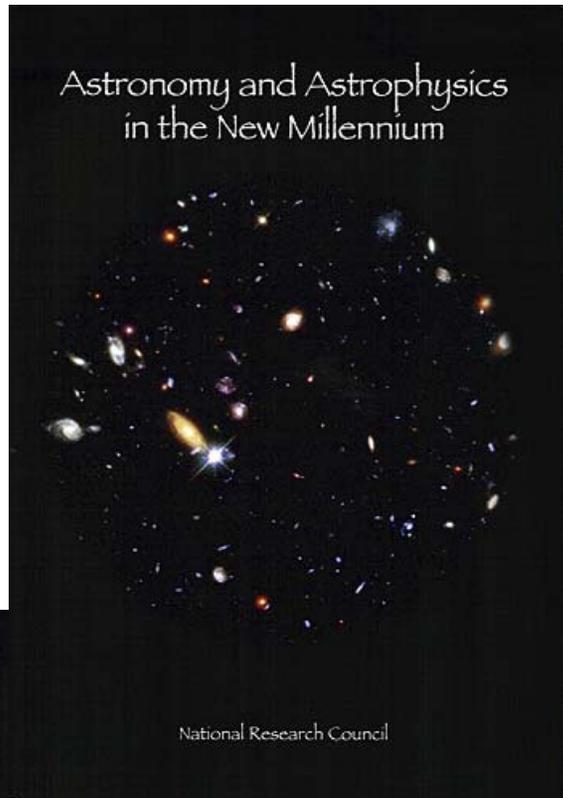
# Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

<b>Garth D. Illingworth (Chair)</b>	<b>University of California, Santa Cruz</b>	
<b>John Carlstrom (Vice-Chair)</b>	<b>University of Chicago</b>	
<b>Neta Bahcall</b>	<b>Princeton University</b>	
<b>Alan Dressler</b>	<b>Carnegie Observatories</b>	
<b>Robert D. Gehrz</b>	<b>University of Minnesota</b>	
<b>Robert P. Kirshner</b>	<b>Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics</b>	
<b>Barry LaBonte</b>	<b>Johns Hopkins University</b>	
<b>Angela V. Olinto</b>	<b>University of Chicago</b>	
<b>Rene A. Ong</b>	<b>University of California, Los Angeles</b>	
<b>Bradley M. Peterson</b>	<b>Ohio State University</b>	
<b>Catherine A. Pilachowski</b>	<b>Indiana University</b>	
<b>Abhijit Saha</b>	<b>National Optical Astronomy Observatories</b>	
<b>Mark Sykes</b>	<b>University of Arizona</b>	<b>HEPAP - 09/23 - GDI</b>

# Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee

AAAC is focused on implementation of Decadal Survey(s) and other comparable NAS/NRC reports



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TIFF (LZW) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

# Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee

March 15 2004 Report: [www.aas.org/naaac/Final\\_Report\\_03\\_15\\_04\\_v22.pdf](http://www.aas.org/naaac/Final_Report_03_15_04_v22.pdf)

- Recommendations to the agencies covered two areas:
  1. Broad recommendations for implementation of science programs
  2. Specific recommendations for programs in Decadal survey(s)
  
- NASA: Impact of FY05 budget funding profile on Structure and Evolution of Universe (SEU), and science impact of HST decision
  
- NSF: High priority programs in Decadal Survey and complementary & synergistic role of ground+space (e.g., HST + 8-10 m class ground-based telescope role in supernovae  $\Rightarrow$  dark energy).
  1. GSMT (30 m telescope) - moving forward on technology development to ensure GSMT operational on JWST timescale
  2. LSST/JDEM (dark energy projects) - support for implementation of both programs; enable timely and coordinated effort on dark energy
  3. ATST/SDO (solar telescopes) - scientific synergy
  
- Enabling technologies and capabilities

## Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee: Current Activities

- Followup of 2004 report with OMB, OSTP, congress, agencies....
- AAAC endorsed effort involving GSMT and JWST SWGs to identify complementary/synergistic science goals and capabilities.
- CMBR task force set up. Joint subcommittee of AAAC and HEPAP. Outline path (roadmap?) for CMB polarization studies/programs.
- Setting up dark energy task force (DETF). Iterating on charge, members, timescale... Third step after strong science case (Quarks-Cosmos) + broad implementation plan (PoU)  $\Rightarrow$  next is a “roadmap”.
- AAAC interested/concerned about funding for major projects at NSF - timescale for implementation of Decadal Survey recommendations
- AAAC very interested in impact of NASA changes on space science and impact on current strategic plans/roadmaps based on Decadal Surveys and Quarks-Cosmos

## Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee: Relationship to Other Committees

- Focus of AAAC is on implementing Decadal Survey(s)/NRC Studies
- Example 1: CAA (Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics) oversight of Decadal Surveys - interaction with AAAC crucial.
- Common goals ⇒ implementation of Decadal Survey(s) and community priorities as reflected through NRC/NAS reports/studies
- How can CAA and AAAC best work together?
- CAA works broad framework - AAAC deals with implementation...
- AAAC to help agencies implement strategic goals ⇒ tactical efforts
  
- Example 2: Relationship of AAAC to other agency FACA committees (HEPAP, SScAC and its subcommittees; MPSAC.....)?
- Interaction needed to enhance likelihood of programs moving ahead ⇒ develop common priorities/approach/language....
- Note that AAAC will evolve to formally include DOE for Astronomy/Astrophysics programs.