

# Recent CAA Activities and Decadal Survey Planning

21 September 2018  
AAAC Meeting

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*Disclaimer: These slides represent a personal assessment of the issues discussed by the CAA. This document should not be cited or quoted because the views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of CAA, SSB, BPA, or the NRC.*

# CAA Roles

- CAA reports to National Academies Board on Physics and Astronomy (BPA) and Space Studies Board (SSB).
- **CAA is not the Decadal Survey committee, and it does not set policy for the Survey.** It does help the National Academies and the Agencies think through relevant issues as they generate the statement of task, stimulate and gather community inputs in advance of the Survey, and pave the way into the Survey.
  - Taking into account lessons learned from previous surveys and inputs from Mid-decadal Report (Hewitt et al) and the Survey of Surveys Report (Dressler et al).

Most recent meeting:

27-29 March 2018

Next meeting:

29-30 October in Irvine

[http://sites.nationalacademies.org/BPA/BPA\\_048755](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/BPA/BPA_048755)

## CAA Members (soon to be updated)

Marcia J. Rieke (NAS), Co-Chair, University of Arizona

Steven M. Ritz, Co-Chair, UC Santa Cruz

Jeremiah K. Darling, University of Colorado, Boulder

Megan Donahue, Michigan State University

Thomas Greene, NASA Ames Research Center

Lee W. Hartmann, University of Michigan

Vassiliki Kalogera, Northwestern University

Bruce Macintosh, Stanford University

Christopher F. McKee (NAS), UC Berkeley

Angela V. Olinto, University of Chicago

Mark M. Phillips, Carnegie Institution for Science

James M. Stone, Princeton University

Alexey Vikhlinin, Harvard-Smithsonian CfA

Eric M. Wilcots, University of Wisconsin, Madison

A. Thomas Young (NAE), Lockheed Martin (Ret.)

# CAA Meeting Topics

- A jam-packed agenda!
- Meeting was held during a time of much uncertainty
  - Fluctuating budgets for agencies, outcomes mostly very good
  - Another launch delay for JWST was announced during the meeting, with the launch readiness date being confirmed by a special committee (T. Young)
- Anne Kinney, new head of the NSF Math and Physical Sciences Directorate, met with the Committee.
- Continued Astro2020 preparations, many discussions. See following slides.
- WFIRST responses to the WIETR, and next steps.
- An additional focus of the meeting was another Short Report, this time on the NASA Mission Concept Studies in preparation for the next Astronomy & Astrophysics Decadal. Report is complete:  
<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25212/report-series-committee-on-astronomy-and-astrophysics-mission-concept-studies>

# Astro2020 Preparations

- Committee again discussed the role of State of the Profession in a decadal survey
  - Excellent feedback from the AAS Town Hall.
  - Very helpful discussions with Dara Norman (NOAO) and Alex Rudolph, Chair of the AAS Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. Discussed types of inputs that can be provided and aspects of the call for white papers.
- An NAS event, funded by the Heising-Simons Foundation and organized by the NAS, to occur in October for early career astronomers to learn about the decadal process. Details at [http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB\\_185166](http://sites.nationalacademies.org/SSB/SSB_185166)
- Completed and issued the Call for Science White Papers. Posted on the new Astro2020 information portal: <http://nas.edu/astro2020.html>
  - An FAQ link and email address for questions can also be found on that portal, which will be updated as more information becomes available.
  - Science white papers due 18 January 2019
  - In the Call document: “...we anticipate that there will be one or more additional call(s) for white papers on other essential topics, such as issues relating to the state of the profession and to missions, projects, and technology development, once the survey begins.”
  - Getting advice on what demographic information could/should be collected with the science white paper submissions.
- Another AAS Town Hall in January 2019. Plan is to introduce Survey leadership there.
- Also reaching out to other related fields (*e.g.*, recent item in APS Division of Particles and Fields newsletter).

## Main Purposes of this Town Hall

- Demystifying the process (see following slides).
- Summarize current plans and to invite feedback:
  - Two categories of feedback and inputs:
    - A. additional lessons you care to share from Astro2010/NWNH
    - B. thoughts about the possible pre-survey activities, specifically:
      - White paper call
      - CATE discussions/workshops
      - State of the Profession
      - Outreach to younger colleagues
  - What else? All feedback welcome!

# Consultation Group

The Consultation Group (CG) works closely with National Academies staff by assisting with the drafting of the statement of task and prospectus for the next decadal survey of astronomy and astrophysics, Astro2020, and to help identify Survey chair candidates. The CG has been meeting frequently. The CG's work will conclude upon the receipt of funding for the survey from the agencies.

- Neta Bahcall, NAS Section 12 Chair
- Alan Dressler, Survey of Surveys Chair, NAS
- Debra Elmegreen, OIR System Study Chair
- Wendy Freedman, BPA member, NAS
- Sarah Gibson, CSSP Co-Chair and SSB XCOM member
- Fiona Harrison, SSB Chair, NAS
- Vicky Kalogera, CAA
- Chryssa Kouveliotou, SSB XCOM member, NAS
- Avi Loeb, BPA Vice-Chair
- Marcia Rieke, CAA Co-Chair, NAS
- Steve Ritz, CAA Co-Chair, BPA member
- David Van Wie, ASEB member, NAE

NAS=National Academy of Sciences  
BPA=Board on Physics and Astronomy  
CSSP=Committee on Solar and Space Physics  
CAA=Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics  
SSB=Space Studies Board  
ASEB=Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board

# Discussion