



Planetary System Science/ Management Operations Working Group

William Bottke (SwRI)

What Do We Do?

- The MOWG acts as a “sounding board” for program managers and others at NASA HQ.
- Our primary focus is on R&A issues as well as the needs and uses of various ground-based facilities.
- “Advice” is a legalistic term. Those on advisory panels (e.g., NAC) must follow particular US government rules, which allows their comments carry more weight.
- **Because we are not an advisory panel, our recommendations are more “informal suggestions”.**
 - This allows our input to quickly reach the program managers.
 - The approval process of the entire NAC advice is more arduous and slow.
 - Program managers find our input useful (or they would get rid of us).

Why Are We Useful?

- **We are the only group that concentrates on the R&A component of NASA science.**
 - The NASA AG's are somewhat unwieldy tool for this task.
- **We provide community memory on a 3-5 year timescale, which is about the turnover time of program managers.**
- **We provide feedback to NASA R&A managers on needed and proposed changes to context and emphasis in programs.**
- **We act as a “safety valve” on the overall process by candidly expressing concerns based on our own experience and the community input sent to us.**

2008 PSS/MOWG

■ NASA Program Mangers:

- Lindley Johnson (Planetary Astronomy, NEO Observations)
- Phil Crane (Planetary Atmospheres)

■ Current Members:

- Bill Bottke, Chair (SwRI)
- Amanda Gulbis (MIT)
- Anne Verbiscer (U. Virginia)
- Julianne Moses (LPI)
- Michael Combi (U. Michigan)
- Ed Beshore (U. Arizona)
- Don Yeomans (JPL)
- Tom Slinger (SRI)
- Scot Rafkin (SwRI)
- Andy Rivkin (APL)

Some of the MOWG Duties

- **Reports from program managers on funding and grant status within programs (PAST, PATM, NEOO).**
 - Discussion of program balance within the PSS cluster.
- **Discussion of ground-based facilities**
 - Funding status, maintenance/upkeep, and possible fate of ground-based telescopes like the IRTF and Arecibo.
 - Reports on observations in the planetary community as well as their ability to access to large aperture ground-based facilities (e.g., Keck).
- **Near-Earth Object (NEO) issues**
 - Reports from the NEO Program Office (Don Yeomans)
 - Future status of the Minor Planet Center.
 - Reports on discovery status and infrastructure needed to find potentially hazardous NEOs.

Some of the MOWG Duties

- **Production of “white papers” on topics of interest:**
 - Solicit funds or make recommendations on facilities (e.g., recent report advocating increased funding for IRTF).
 - Justification of increased funding to PSS “cluster” (program initiated under NASA AA Ed Weiler).
 - Report on the ability of WISE (Wide-field IR Survey Explorer) space-based telescope to find NEOs.
- **Reports on a variety of NASA issues (e.g., NSPIRES, Outer Planets Research, SARA, SBAG, etc.)**

Upcoming and On-Going Issues

- **Status and funding for Arecibo and IRTF.**
- **Can NASA's Planetary Astronomy program afford to pay for community access to telescopes like Gemini or Keck? If so, how much funding should be allocated?**
- **The renewed "suborbital initiative" and whether the proposed inclusion in Planetary Astronomy (with no apparent budget!) is appropriate.**
- **On-going changes to R&A and review process.**

Next Meeting



- Next meeting: Houston, TX on March 9, 2008.
- We are looking for a few new members. Let me know if you know of any good candidates in:
 - Planetary Astronomy
 - Planetary Atmospheres
 - NEO Observations

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- We may even have \$100 in prizes in our “Battle of the Eggheads”!