



December 6, 2013

Reply to Attn of: SMD/ Director, Astrophysics Division

Appointment of new members of the Physics of the Cosmos Program Analysis Group
(PhysPAG) Executive Council

Background:

As stated in the PhysPAG Terms of Reference, the terms of the PhysPAG Executive Council (EC) members last up to three years. Accordingly, four members of the current PhysPAG EC are rotating off in January 2014: G. Muller, S. Hanany, E. Hays, and J. Rhodes. The remaining members of the EC, whose terms expire December 2015, are: J. Bookbinder and A. Olinto. The Chair of the EC is John Nousek, whose term expires in January 2015.

On September 15, 2013, NASA issued a Call for Nominations with a due date of October 4, 2013. Due to the government-funding lapse, which caused a partial Federal shutdown on October 1, the deadline was extended by two weeks to October 18, 2013. A total of 19 nominations were received.

Criteria for Selection:

The following criteria and considerations were adopted for the selection of EC nominees:

1. The dominant upcoming event in the PCOS program will be the expected collaboration of NASA and ESA on an ESA-led X-ray mission for L2. This emphasizes the need in the near term for additional experts in X-ray science and hardware development, who also have good connections with Europe;
2. The *Euclid* mission is in formulation and NASA is contributing to the mission, which will launch in 2019. Members with expertise in Dark Energy, possibly members of the Euclid Consortium and/or Science Working Group, are desirable for the PhysPAG EC;
3. To maintain balance in the Program, all the various PCOS areas of expertise (e.g., CMB, X-rays, Gamma-rays, Astroparticles, Gravitational Waves, Dark Energy) should be represented on the EC, at approximately equal levels;
4. Continuity with current membership, to ensure a smooth transition to the new members;
5. Geographic balance and institutional balance.

Recommendations:

1. Extend the term of the four members who are scheduled to rotate off in January 2014 for 1 more year until December 2014;
2. Add 1 new member to each PCOS area of expertise for the term Jan 2014 – Dec 2016;

3. Stagger the end of their terms in order to always have 1/3 of the previous term members on the EC at any time;
4. Select a Vice Chair who will assume the duties of Chair when the term of the current Chair will expire;
5. Ask the current Chair to stay on the EC *ex officio* for one more year after expiration of his term in January 2015.

Table 1 lists the new members. Table 2 presents the final composition of the PhysPAG EC.

Table 1: New members of the PhysPAG EC for the term Jan 2014-Dec 2016

Name	Affiliation	Expertise
M. Bautz	MIT	X-rays
J. Bock*	Caltech/JPL	CMB, suborbital
N. Cornish	Montana State Univ.	Gravitational Waves
M. McConnell	Univ. of New Hampshire	Gamma-rays
E. Seo	Univ. of MD	Astroparticles
R. Bean	Cornell Univ.	Dark Energy

*Vice Chair

Table 2: Final composition of the PhysPAG EC in 2014

Name	Affiliation	Expertise	Term Expiration Date
J. Nousek, Chair	Penn. State Univ.	X-rays	January 2015*
J. Bookbinder	SAO	X-rays	December 2015
M. Bautz	MIT	X-rays	December 2016
S. Hanany	Univ. of Minnesota	CMB, suborbital	December 2014
J. Bock	Caltech/JPL	CMB, suborbital	December 2016
G. Muller	Univ. of Florida	Gravitational Waves	December 2014
N. Cornish	Montana State Univ.	Gravitational Waves	December 2016
J. Rhodes	JPL	Dark Energy	December 2014
R. Bean	Cornell	Dark Energy	December 2016
A. Olinto	Univ. of Chicago	Astroparticles	December 2015
Eun-Suk Seo	Univ. of MD	Astroparticles	December 2016
L. Hays	GSFC	Gamma-rays	December 2014
M. McConnell	Univ. of New Hampshire	Gamma-rays	December 2016

*Term to be extended 1 year as *ex officio* member until December 2015

Recommended:

Rita Sambruna
Rita Sambruna, PCOS PS

Wilton Sanders 12/4/13
Wilton Sanders, PCOS Deputy PS

Lia LaPiana
Lia LaPiana, PCOS PE

Ann Hornschoemer Cardiff
Ann Hornschoemer, PCOS Chief Scientist

Approved:

Paul Hertz 12/6/13
Paul Hertz, Astrophysics Division Director

Concurred:

Bradley Peterson 12/19/13
Bradley Peterson, Chair Astrophysics
Subcommittee