

UCOAC MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 18, 2020

ATTENDEES: A. Barth (UCI), G. Becker (UCR), G. Coolidge (UCO), M. Cooper (UCI), A. Filippenko (UCB), M. Fitzgerald (UCLA), A. Ghez (UCLA), M. Kriek (UCB), R. Jensen-Clem (UCSC), A. Korossy (UCO), L. Lubin (UCD), C. Max (UCO, Director), B. Mazin (UCSB), M. Shetrone (UCO, Deputy Director), T. Treu (UCLA), D. Wittman (UCD), S. Wright (UCSD, UCOAC Chair)

UCO BUSINESS

There was an update on the status of Lick post-fire. All but two families living on the mountain have returned home. All telescopes are officially back up and running for science, with some restrictions. Work has commenced on recovery projects, which includes repairs, demolitions, and erosion control. UCO has funded some studies to estimate the cost of repairs and solicited bids for vendors. The estimated cost is up to \$5-6 million, but there is a low deductible on insurance. Some coverage of costs may come from FEMA. Other donations have been received from foundations and private donors. UCO is exploring a bridge loan from UCOP to cover the costs.

There was an update on the UCO director search (reminder that Claire Max is retiring in the summer). Requests were sent to the campus VCs of research and Chancellors for possible members of the search committee. A job description has been written but the ad was not yet posted. The target date for appointment of the new director is July 1.

UCO SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

There were reports from UCOAC subcommittees. The first was from the LMAP subcommittee. There was a consensus reached on the committee that a management plan should be added to the LMAP proposals. There was not a consensus on requiring the service to UCO section, so the committee decided to leave it as optional. The committee suggested that regular observing proposals identify if any personnel are on an LMAP. There were no objections from the UCOAC, so a formal statement about changes to the LMAP will be presented by deputy director Shetrone at the next meeting.

The second report was from the TMT communication subcommittee. There was outreach to Chancellors and EVCs on all campuses following the Regents meeting on TMT in the summer.

The third report was from the Affiliated Faculty subcommittee. This subcommittee was formed in Summer 2020 to look into the definition and process for becoming a UCO Affiliated Faculty. The subcommittee has had several meetings, and has a working draft document defining the affiliated faculty role, which was sent to the broader UCOAC. There was no time for discussion, so comments were to be submitted offline and this will be a primary agenda item at the next meeting.

KECK SSC UPDATE

An update was presented primarily from the SSC meeting on November 11-12, 2020. No WMKO staff or families had positive COVID cases. Due to limited staffing, ToO instrument switches are still not allowed. There was an update on the ToO trigger rate for 2018B-2020A, which was 9%. Of those, 9 of 11 were in June 2020 (2020A). Pajama mode is still in operation, and now accounts for 80% of all observing. There was a discussion of the pros and cons of pajama mode, including additional work required for the Keck IT staff.

There were instrument updates. KPF is scheduled for delivery in January 2022. LRIS is struggling, including the red side and the failure of the polarimeter. OSIRIS was serviced to repair a lenslet mask stage failure. Overall there are concerns about the supply of liquid nitrogen. A number of upcoming instruments are submitting funding proposals in the next few months (HISPEC, FOBOS, Liger, etc.)

There is a plan to generate an updated Keck Strategic plan. The last plan was created in 2016. There is a kick-off scheduled for March 2021 for the next strategic plan, with the goal of presenting the new plan to the board in November 2021.

There was a discussion of the Data Services Initiative at Keck. John O'Meara presented the goals around observing (e.g., instrument GUIs), data reduction, archiving, and providing data to the community. This initiative is supported by NASA, and there are plans underway to incorporate user input. There was also a discussion of observing metrics led by Mark Kassis, including usage and productivity.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Topics primarily consisted of review of UCO mini-grant proposals.