

## NASA Advisory Council

### Outer Planets Analysis Group (OPAG)

#### Terms of Reference

##### Purpose

The Outer Planets Analysis Group (OPAG) is a community-based, interdisciplinary forum responsible for providing science input and analysis needed to plan and prioritize outer planet exploration activities.

##### Community

Membership of the OPAG, and participation in its activities, is open to all members of the planetary science and exploration community, particularly those scientists, engineers, technologists, and other professionals—in academia, industry, government, or the commercial sector—who are interested in the exploration of the outer planets. International participation is welcome.

##### Activities

The OPAG:

- Regularly evaluates—on the basis of the widest possible community outreach—exploration goals, objectives, investigations, and required measurements; and publish and maintain the OPAG “Goals Document”;
- Provides findings, analysis, and other information that can be used to inform decisions on the science, technology, and operational content and priorities for outer planet missions;
- Provides a regular forum for broad discussion of outer planet exploration science, technology, and operational issues, and allows a conduit for community input into exploration activities and planning;
- Upon request of NASA (or NASA advisory committees), provides reviews or other assessments related to the study and exploration of the Outer Planets; and
- Communicates its findings and assessments to the planetary science community and to NASA. OPAG will present those findings for which a formal response from NASA is desired to the Planetary Science Advisory Committee (PAC). Findings in response to requests from NASA or its advisory committees will also be reported to the originator(s) of the request. All findings will be posted to the OPAG website.

##### Organization and Process

The Chair of the OPAG is drawn from the U.S. planetary science community and is appointed in consultation with the Director of NASA’s Planetary Science Division (PSD). The nominal term for the chair is 4 years. The Chair is responsible for reporting findings (as described above) to the PAC and may not be a PAC member. The Chair is assisted by a NASA Liaison (a PSD staff

member, appointed by the PSD Director), who serves as the single point of contact with NASA, and a Steering Committee that support the Group's planning and activities. The NASA Liaison serves as an *Ex Officio* member of the Steering Committee. Nominations for the Steering Committee are solicited through an open call to the community, and appointments are made by the OPAG Chair, in consultation with the NASA Liaison. The Steering Committee is constituted to achieve a functional balance and diversity from members of the Outer Planets exploration, and planetary science, community. The nominal term for Steering Committee members is four years.

The OPAG Chair provides final approval, prioritization, and scheduling of requested tasks after consultation with the OPAG NASA Liaison and Steering Committee. Logistical and organizational support for OPAG activities is provided through SMD.

The OPAG may choose to organize sub-groups (e.g., science analysis or interest groups) to deal with specific issues; these sub-groups report their findings to the Steering Committee and the full community. Reports are formally approved by the OPAG Chair after review by the OPAG Steering Committee and discussion in an open OPAG forum.

The OPAG meets twice per year, or as otherwise requested by NASA. The OPAG Chair and the NASA Liaison set the meeting schedule, in consultation with the Steering Committee. The OPAG meeting and status reports are posted to the OPAG website and are provided to the PAC and NASA PSD.

Logistical and organizational support to the OPAG will be provided by SMD.

Last Updated by 10 April 2020