

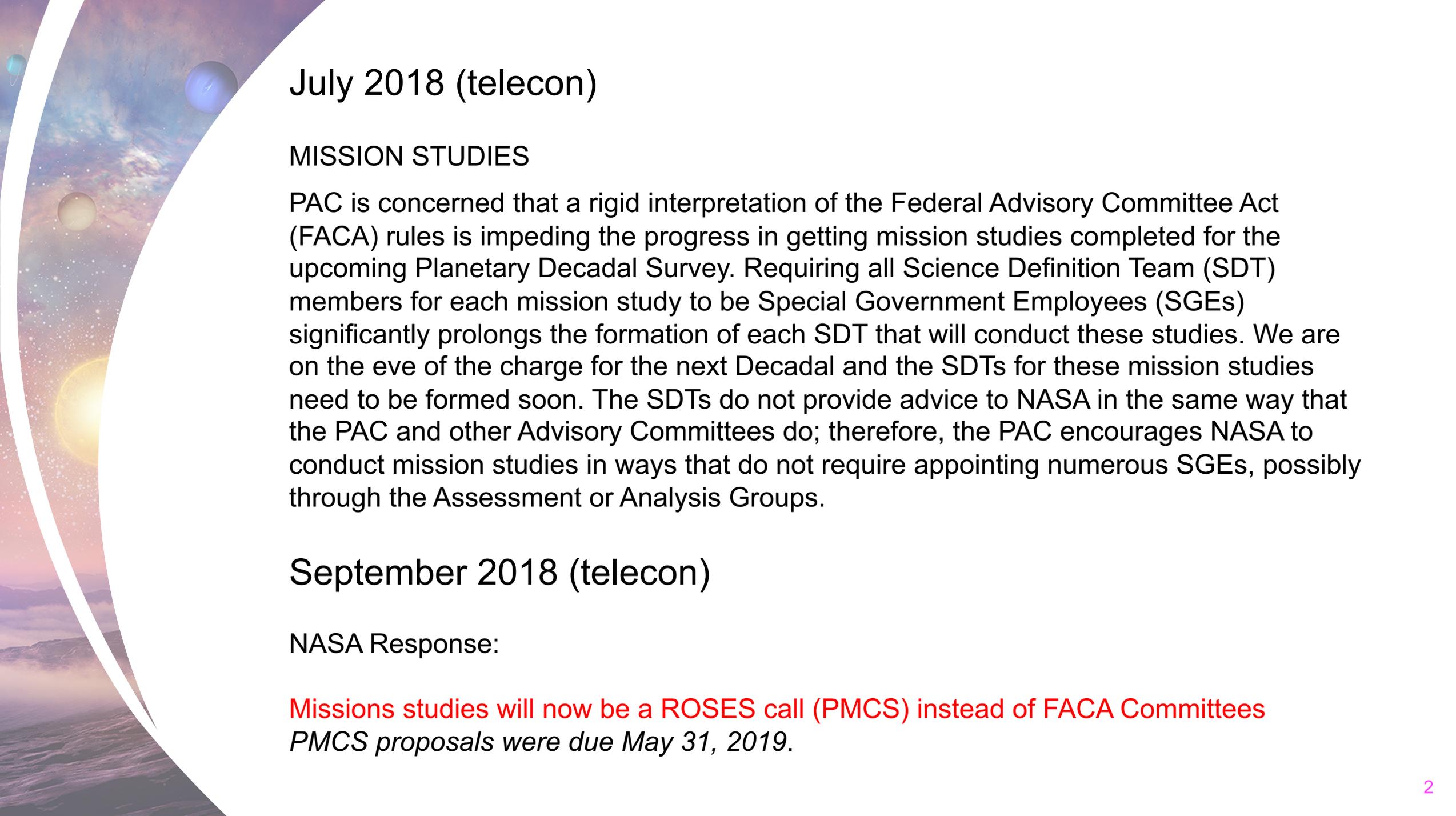


NASA Planetary Science Advisory Committee (PAC) Findings Relevant to the Decadal Survey

Anne Verbiscer, PAC Chair

OPAG meeting 20 August 2019

University of Colorado, Boulder



July 2018 (telecon)

MISSION STUDIES

PAC is concerned that a rigid interpretation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) rules is impeding the progress in getting mission studies completed for the upcoming Planetary Decadal Survey. Requiring all Science Definition Team (SDT) members for each mission study to be Special Government Employees (SGEs) significantly prolongs the formation of each SDT that will conduct these studies. We are on the eve of the charge for the next Decadal and the SDTs for these mission studies need to be formed soon. The SDTs do not provide advice to NASA in the same way that the PAC and other Advisory Committees do; therefore, the PAC encourages NASA to conduct mission studies in ways that do not require appointing numerous SGEs, possibly through the Assessment or Analysis Groups.

September 2018 (telecon)

NASA Response:

Missions studies will now be a ROSES call (PMCS) instead of FACA Committees
PMCS proposals were due May 31, 2019.



July 2018 (telecon)

OPEN NEW FRONTIERS

For the upcoming Planetary Decadal Survey, PAC encourages NASA to include in its charge to the National Academies that the New Frontiers mission class be open to all targets and destinations, as the Discovery mission class is, rather than limited to a fixed set of targets provided by the Decadal Survey. An open New Frontiers competition would enable proposing teams to be creative in their mission objectives and designs and to be fully responsive to new discoveries, enabling NASA to obtain the highest science return on its investments.

September 2018 (telecon)

NASA Response:

PSD is identifying allowable terms in the decadal survey statement of work, without unduly influencing the process