

# PSS Report to OPAG

## Feb 8, 2010

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# Change of Chair

I am delighted to announce that Ron Greeley will be the new Chair of PSS.

Wes Huntress is the Chair of the Science Subcommittee of the NAC

Ron Greeley will sit on the Science SNAC

## Recent meetings:

Dec 3-4, 2009 meeting

Recommendations following

Feb 3, 2010 telecon

2011 budget and MSL status

Unofficial PSS site – posted materials

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/pss/>

Official PSS site - official postings

<http://nasascience.nasa.gov/about-us/NAC-subcommittees/nac-planetary-science-subcommittee>

*Recommendation*

## PU-238

- PSS urges NASA to work with DOE to seek a solution for the supply of Pu-238, and for the development and testing of advanced RPSs. PSS requests to be kept informed of developments on this issue at the next meeting.

*Recommendation*

## Mars Science Lab

- Consistent with previous recommendations, **PSS recommends that if the development costs of MSL increase to a level that begins to impact programs outside the Mars program, or if unexpected developments increase costs or significantly affect technical progress, PSS be informed.**

# Mars2016

- Given the new direction this represents for Mars exploration, **the PSS requests that it be informed of the development of the 2016 Mars mission, particularly of the status and development of the potential Entry, Descent, Landing package that would be provided by ESA (as well as any potential landed science package), the mission management structure and review methodologies, as well as the process for providing thorough cost estimates.**

*Recommendation*

# Mars2018

- **The PSS requests to be kept informed on this important new direction of NASA's Mars Program, in particular we would like to hear of NASA and ESA's plans for jointly designing technical scope and costs of the 2018 mission.**

*Recommendation*

## Supporting Research & Technology Working Group

- **PSS recommends that a team of PSS members, spanning a cross-section of the scientific community, form an SR&T Working Group to evaluate all SR&T programs within PSD, and to provide advice to NASA on priorities for their support within the SR&T programs.**



*Recommendation*

## Supporting Research & Technology Working Group

- **PSS recommends that the PS SR&T Working Group evaluate the role of Co-I/IDS/PS on long-duration missions and provide recommendations for future long-duration missions such as the next outer planets flagship.**

## Technology Panel

- **PSS supports the formation of a panel to assess technology development projects within PSD, to develop a coordinated and integrated technology development plan, and to recommend process and policy changes to improve effectiveness and performance.**

## *Recommendation*

# NEOs & Arecibo

The House Report (#111-149) contains language directing PSD to provide additional \$5.8M for the NEO program, including \$2M to support “ongoing scientific research at the Arecibo Observatory in the fields of climate change and space weather.” PSS has serious concerns about this potential budget item, mainly because neither of these areas of research lies under the purview of PSD, being covered by Earth Science or Heliophysics. Moreover, the potential hazards of NEOs to humans relate to the mission of ESMD. **The PSS recommends that such augmentation to the NEO budget, if adopted, be shared among SMD divisions and by ESMD. The PSS further recommends that the NAC Science Committee address the future of funding for the Arecibo Observatory. Should PSD be obliged to accommodate a \$2M augmentation to the NEO program, the PSS requests a briefing from PSD on the options for implementing this budget revision.**

## Lunar Simulants

- **The PSS recommends that a comprehensive study be undertaken by LEAG and CAPTEM to define the types of simulants that the various communities require in order to facilitate important lunar investigations as well as to preserve the Apollo lunar sample collection for future generations.**

## *Recommendation*

# International Collaboration

- **PSS notes that experience shows that for the success of all missions it is key that joint science teams work together with technical and management teams from the beginning in mission design.**
- **PSS recognizes these issues are not limited to PSD and urges the NAC Science Committee to consider the implications of increasing international collaboration on the implementation of SMD missions.**
- **PSS notes that ITAR continues to be a challenge to international collaboration and urges NASA to work with the State Department on practical mechanisms to facilitate scientific collaboration between nations.**

*Recommendation*

## SMD-ESMD Collaboration

- **PSS recommends that the planetary science community, through PSS, have a formal opportunity to have input on how the activities of structures such as OSEWG might best be tuned to serve the goals of the agency and the broader scientific community.**

Next PSS meeting:

April 8-9<sup>th</sup> at NASA Headquarters  
Washington, DC.