

July 2, 2018 NASA Planetary Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting Findings

1. FINDINGS CONCERNING THE UPCOMING PLANETARY DECADAL SURVEY:

- 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.

- 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.

2. FINDING ON NASA'S INTERNAL SCIENTIST FUNDING MODEL (ISFM):

- PAC appreciates NASA's efforts to increase efficiency in the use of science dollars; however, the implementation of the ISFMs at NASA centers must be done in a transparent manner so the Planetary Community is fully aware of this funding model. Key to the transparency of this funding model will be the performance metrics by which it is evaluated, to be made available to those both inside and outside of NASA centers.

3. FINDING ON THE PLANETARY DEFENSE COORDINATION OFFICE (PDCO):

- Given the importance of planetary defense to NASA and the public, PAC recommended at its previous meeting in February, 2018 that NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office (PDCO) make regular reports to the PAC on the progress and plans being made in regards to meeting the George E. Brown survey objective of detecting and tracking >90% of Near Earth Objects (NEOs) larger than 140m, and smaller NEOs. Now that the Administration has requested a significant increase in FY19 funding for PDCO, PAC would like to see the PDCO program objectives, summary program plan to meet these objectives, and roadmap with

dates of key milestones included in the complete PDCO report at the next PAC meeting.

4. FINDING ON NASA FLIGHT MISSIONS GOING INTO SENIOR REVIEW:

- PAC is concerned that many NASA flight missions are not getting sufficient budget guidance in time to write competitive proposals for the Senior Review. PAC recommends that missions be provided budget projections as early as possible to inform their extended mission proposals.

5. FINDING ON THE FORMATION OF A MERCURY ANALYSIS GROUP

- PAC is delighted to hear that NASA will soon be forming a Mercury Analysis Group. PAC would like to see a Mercury mission on the list of mission studies to be done for the next Planetary Decadal Survey.

6. FINDING ON PLANETARY INPUT INTO THE ASTROPHYSICS DECADAL SURVEY

- PAC is concerned that the Astrophysics Decadal Survey is proceeding without input from the Planetary Science Community. PAC recommends that there be representation from the Planetary community on the Committees assessing priorities for space and ground-based astronomy in the coming decade.