

## Mars Sample Return Ground Element Coordination

**Recommendation:** The PAC recommends that the Mars Program engage the Curation and Analysis Planning Team for Extraterrestrial Materials (CAPTEM) in the process for planning any future sampling activity at Mars.

**Major Reasons for the Recommendation:** The Mars Program has put considerable thought and effort into understanding how to implement the ground element of Mars Sample Return. The Mars Program has done an excellent job collecting input from the Mars science community (via the Mars Exploration Analysis Group, MEPAG) and its European Space Agency (ESA) partners, yet at the same time, the sample science community, CAPTEM, also has extensive relevant experience and expertise to offer on this topic. The Mars science community and the sample science community appear to be working in parallel, and it would be more efficient and beneficial to the process if these groups worked together to approach this important problem.

**Consequences of No-Action on the Recommendation:** Maintaining the status quo constitutes a duplication of effort and inefficient use of resources.