2020-2021 AAAC REPORT
COVID-19
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- The agencies have made tremendous efforts to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on their community-facing work
- Focus on early career scientists is important, and should continue
- To the extent possible, Congress should supplement appropriations to offset planned cuts
DATA
DATA

- Good progress is being made towards more open data standards and guidelines
- Data provenance is nearly as important as the data itself, which has implications for open code
- After Astro2020, a review should be made on data access
- AAAC should revisit its principles of access
NEOS AND MEGA-CONSTELLATIONS
NEOS

- The delay of the NEO Surveyor mission KDP is a concern
- Current and future ground and space missions are essential to the success of meeting the charge of the George E. Brown Act
MEGA CONSTELLATIONS

• Cross-agency efforts to deliver data-driven recommendations are needed to work with industry to mitigate the impact of satellite megaconstellations on optical and radio astronomy
NSF-SPECIFIC
The MSIP program is an important recommendation from Astro2010, but is both under- and variably-funded. Stability of the line is encouraged, as is growth.

Metrics regarding success rates for MRI, MSIP, and MSRI are difficult to obtain, hampering the AAAC’s work.

The current way NSF reports its budget to the committee hampers the AAAC’s ability to meet its charge.

The AAAC strongly supports the Facility Operation Transition pilot, but notes it is significantly under-funded relative to the amount needed for NSF to meet its strategic facility commitments while maintaining a robust grants and instrumentation line.
NASA-SPECIFIC
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- The addition of Inclusion as a core value for NASA is strongly supported by the AAAC
- Reports on the implementation of the Strategy for Data Management and Computing for Groundbreaking Science are requested by the AAAC
- Continued reporting on the evolution of dual-anonymous implementation is requested by the AAAC
- Reporting on the efforts to increase diversity of mission PIs is requested by the AAAC
DOE-SPECIFIC

• Reporting on the progress of CMB-S4 is requested by the AAAC

• Along with NSF, the AAAC requests that DOE provide updates on the implementation of a long-term operations plan for the Rubin Observatory

• Updates on DESI science operations and science program are requested by the AAAC
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
DEI

• The AAAC requests evidence of bias mitigation in review processes from each of the agencies

• A lack of publicly accessible demographic data hampers the ability to review initiatives at the agencies, and the agencies should work with OMB to collect and release demographic data

• The AAAC would like to see regular DEI initiative updates from the agencies
ASTRO2020

- Everyone working on Astro2020 deserves significant recognition for working on the Survey in a very difficult environment.

- Leadership by the United States in the astronomical sciences is threatened by budget uncertainty and other pressures.

- Absent robust planning, resources, and resource phasing, the agencies will be unable to implement an ambitious and transformative set of recommendations from Astro2020.