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April 14, 2010

TO: Wes Huntress, Chair, NASA Advisory Council Science Committee  
RE: Report from the Astrophysics Subcommittee (APS)  
FROM: Alan Boss, Chair, APS

This letter report summarizes the APS meeting held on April 12, 2010. The meeting was held over telephone lines, using the Webex system to display the presentations.

The Subcommittee is grateful for presentations from Jon Morse, Doug Hudgins, and William Borucki. We are also thankful for the ongoing work of the NASA staff support, particularly from Hashima Hasan.

*Division Update:* Jon Morse presented the status of the Astrophysics Division (APD), beginning with several examples of the hottest science results being returned by APD missions such as Hubble, Herschel, Spitzer, Fermi, and WISE. Morse also summarized the status of Division's plans for dealing with the results of the 2010 Senior Review of Operating Missions and the National Research Council's Astro 2010 Decadal Survey. He then described in some detail the opportunities that have arisen for NASA partnerships in two European Space Agency (ESA) mission concepts, Euclid and PLATO, as a direct result of the bilateral NASA-ESA meeting held on 23-24 March 2010. Such partnerships are attractive means for achieving science goals that might be difficult to meet by either agency acting on its own. NASA's possible involvement with either of these two ESA missions will depend in large part on the results of Astro 2010, which should be released in August 2010.

*Kepler Data Policy:* As a member of the Kepler Mission Science Team, Alan Boss recused himself as chair of the APS for the presentations and discussions regarding the Kepler Data Policy. APS member John Huchra took over at that point as acting chair during the Kepler segment of the meeting, while Boss assumed the role of a member of the public and did not participate in this segment of the meeting. Acting Chair John Huchra will submit a separate report to the Science Committee outlining this segment of the APS meeting and the recommendation that resulted from the APS deliberations.

Best wishes,



Alan Boss, Chair, APS