

Space Science Board

1958-1974

The NAS Space Science Board (SSB) was appointed in spring 1958 at the request of the Executive Committee of the US National Committee for the International Geophysical Year. The Board's mission was to survey the scientific aspects of the human exploration of space. Accordingly, the SSB provided advice on the continuation and expansion of the IGY's rocket and satellite program, and later advised NASA, the Department of Defense, and the National Science Foundation on aspects of interplanetary probes and space stations, potential problems of manned spaceflight, the exploration of Venus and Mars, and other matters related to space.

The Space Science Board collection covers the years 1958-1974 and contains correspondence, reports, and meeting minutes for a span of 20 linear feet.

- Space Science Board Letter: 31 March 1961 letter report to NASA, [“Man’s Role in the National Space Program”](#)
- [Space Science Press Conference](#): 23 August 1962 at the University of Iowa

Current and older reports can be searched on NAP.edu under the current division name [Space Studies Board](#)

INDEX TO COLLECTION

ADMINISTRATION

COMMITTEES & BOARDS

- Space Science Board: Biological Coordinating Group: 1962
- Committees
 - Atmosphere of Earth & Planets: 1961
 - Atmospheric Sciences: 1961-1962
 - Chemistry of Space & Exploration of Moon & Planets
 - Meetings: Fourth: 1961
 - General: 1961-1962
 - Environmental Biology
 - Membership: 1961-1962
 - Meetings: 1961-1962
 - Panels
 - Circadian Rhythms: 1961
 - Closed Ecological Systems: 1962
 - Gravity: 1962-1964
 - Magnetic Radiofrequency & Other Field Effects: 1962-1963
 - Radiation Biology: 1962-1963
 - General: 1961-1963
 - Report: 1961-1962
 - General: 1961-1963
 - Exobiology: 1961-1962
 - Geodesy: 1961

- High Altitude Rocket & Balloon Research
 - Meetings: 1962
 - Membership: 1962-1964
 - General: 1962-1964
- International Relations: 1961-1966
- Life Sciences: 1963-1965
- Lunar Sample Handling Facility: Ad hoc: 1965
- Man in Space
 - Conference on Radiation Problems Associated with Manned Lunar Landing Program: 1961
 - End of Program: 1962-1963
 - Meetings: 1961-1962
 - Membership: 1961-1962
 - Planning Group: 1961-1962
 - Policy & Program: Discussions: 1961-1962
 - Relationships
 - NASA: 1961-1962
 - PSAC: 1961-1962
 - Study of Role of Scientist in Scientific Activities in Space: 1961
 - Working Groups
 - Gaseous Environment for Manned Spacecraft: 1962-1964
 - Nutrition & Feeding Problems: 1962-1963
 - Problem of Weightlessness in Space Flight: 1962-1963
 - Radiation Problems in Spaceflight: 1961-1963
 - Temperature Problems: 1962-1963
 - General: 1962-1963
- Meteorological Aspects of Satellites: 1961
- NASA-University Relations: Ad hoc: 1965
- NASA/University Relationships: Ad hoc: 1961-1962
- Optical & Radio Astronomy: 1961-1962
- Physics of Fields & Particles in Space: 1961-1962
- Potential Contamination & Interference from Space Experiments: 1963-1966
- Project West Ford: Ad hoc: 1961-1964
- Scientist-Astronaut Selection: Ad hoc: 1965
- Surface & Interior of Moon & Planets: 1963
- Upper Atmosphere Rocket Research: 1961
- Conferences
 - Extraterrestrial Intelligent Life: Green Bank WVA: 1961-1962
 - Executive Committee: 1962-1964
- Executive Director: Addresses: International Cooperation in Space Science: 1961
- Funding: 1961-1965
- Meetings: 9th-21st: 1961-1966
- Membership: 1962-1965
- Memoranda: Nos 191-414: 1961-1966
- Panels
 - Data & Publications: 1961
 - Planetary Atmospheres: Ad hoc: 1961-1962

- Tracking & Orbit Computation: Ad hoc: 1961
- Policy: 1961-1966
- Reorganization: 1961-1962
- Reports: 1961-1966
- Scientific Programs
 - Cooperation with COSPAR: 1961-1966
 - Launching Announcements: 1964-1965
 - Policy: 1961-1966
 - Study of Contamination of US by Fallout from USSR Atmospheric Atomic Tests: Proposed: 1961
 - General: 1961-1966
- Study Group on Advanced Orbiting Astronomical Observatory: 1962-1964
- Summer Studies
 - 1967 Program: Proposed: 1966
 - 1966 Program
 - Beginning of Program: 1966
 - Group on Cardiovascular Physiology: 1966
 - Group on Respiratory Physiology: 1966
 - Preparation: 1966
 - General: 1966
 - 1965 Program
 - Background Data: 1965
 - Beginning of Program: 1964-1965
 - Committee on Rocket-Satellite Research: 1965-1966
 - Meetings: 1965
 - Participants: 1965
 - Preparation: 1965
 - Recommendations: 1965
 - Report: 1965-1966
 - Working Groups
 - Biology: 1965
 - International Cooperation: 1965
 - Medicine & Physiology: 1964-1965
 - NASA-University Relations: 1965
 - Optical Astronomy: 1965
 - Physical Sciences: 1965
 - Planetary & Lunar Exploration: 1964-1965
 - Radio & Radar Astronomy: 1964-1965
 - Role of Man in Space Research: 1965
 - Solar Astronomy: 1965
 - X-Ray & Gamma-ray Astronomy: 1965
 - 1964 Program
 - Beginning of Program: 1964
 - Meetings: Plenary: 1964-1965
 - Participants: 1964
 - Preparation: 1964
 - Report: 1964-1966
 - Steering Committee: 1964

- 1963 Program
 - Proposed: 1962
- 1962 Program
 - Agenda: 1962
 - Evaluation: 1962-1963
 - Final Briefing: 1962
 - NASA
 - Briefings for Study Participants: 1962
 - Summary: 1964
 - Participants: 1962
 - Preparation: 1961-1962
 - Press Relations: 1962-1963
 - Proceedings [4 Vols]: 1962
 - Relations with Committee on Man in Space: 1962
 - Report: 1962-1963
 - Working Groups: 1962
 - General: 1962-1963
- Symposia
 - Gravity & Organism: 1965-1966
 - Nutrition in Space: 1962-1963
 - General: 1961-1964
- General: 1961-1967

INSTITUTIONS - ASSOCIATIONS & INDIVIDUALS

- American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics: 1965
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: 1960
- Columbia U Council on Atomic Age Studies: 1959
- George Washington U Policy Studies Program: 1965
- Seminar on Soviet Space Activities: 1965
 - Symposium on Possible Uses of Earth Satellites: 1958
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology Scientific Programs: Project West Ford: 1961-1964
- National Conference on Peaceful Uses of Space: Fifth (St Louis): 1965
- State U of Iowa Dept of Physics & Astronomy: Scientific Program: INJUN Satellite: 1961
- Symposium on Challenge of Nuclear Power & Outer Space to Political Control: 1958

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- Committee on International Organizations & Programs: 1963-1966
- Institutions Associations Abroad: 1958-1974
- International Congresses: 1959-1974
- International Geophysical Year (IGY)
 - Scientific Program: Rockets & Satellites: 1958-1962
 - General: 1958-1963
- International Organizations
 - International Assn of Geodesy: 1960-1974
 - International Assn of Geomagnetism & Aeronomy: 1960-1966
 - International Assn of Meteorology & Atmospheric Physics: 1963-1966

- International Astronautical Federation: 1959-1962
- General: 1958-1966
- International Unions
 - Geodesy & Geophysics: 1960-1965
 - ICSU
 - Bureau: 1958-1959
 - CETEX (Com on Contamination by Extraterrestrial Exploration): 1958-1959
 - Executive Board: 1958-1963
 - Executive Committee: 1964-1967
 - Federation of Astronomical & Geophysical Services: 1961
 - General Assemblies: 1958-1966
 - Working Group on Solar-Terrestrial Physics: 1963-1965
 - World Data Centers: 1960-1976
 - General: 1958-1974
 - ICSU: COSPAR
 - Beginning of Program: 1958-1959
 - Bureau: Meetings [1st-13th]: 1960-1966
 - Charter & Bylaws: 1959-1966
 - Committees
 - Constants & Ephemerides: Ad hoc: 1962-1963
 - Executive Committee: 1958-1959
 - Finance Committee: 1958-1966
 - National Committees: 1958-1974
 - Polar Cap Absorption Experiments: Ad hoc: 1960-1962
 - Consultative Group on Potentially Harmful Effects of Space Experiments: 1962-1967
 - Executive Council: 1960-1966
 - Information Bulletin [Nos 1-71, incomplete set]: 1960-1974
 - Meetings [1st-5th]: 1958-1966
 - Membership: 1962
 - Relations with ICSU Unions & Committees: 1958-1967
 - Reports: 1962-1974
 - Scientific Program on International Rocket
 - Interval: 1960-1961
 - Weeks: 1959-1960
 - Scientific Program on Study of July 1959 Event: 1960
 - Symposiums
 - Extraterrestrial Biology & Organic Chemistry: 1963
 - Meteorological Uses of Rockets & Satellites: 1960-1962
 - Space Science [1st-7th]: 1960-1966
 - Terrestrial Life in Space: 1963
 - Working Groups
 - Application of Space Techniques to Atmospheric Circulation: Proposed: 1964-1965
 - Data & Publications: 1959-1966
 - Design & Coordination of Experiments: 1966
 - Education: Ad hoc: 1962-1963
 - International Reference Atmosphere: 1961-1965

- IQSY (International Years of Quiet Sun): 1962-1965
- Numeration & Names: 1958-1974
- Permanent Working Groups: 1958
- Physics & Chemistry of Near Space: 1963-1965
- Procedures Rules & Organization and Rotating Membership: 1958
- Properties of Upper Atmosphere: 1966
- Scientific Experiments: 1958-1961
- Space Biology: 1963-1966
- Tracking: 1958-1966
- Troposphere & Stratosphere Experiments: 1965-1966
- General: 1958-1974
- ICSU: Inter-Union Commissions
 - Atmospheric Sciences: 1962-1964
 - Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy & Space Science: 1959-1974
 - Solar-Terrestrial
 - Physics: 1965-1968
 - Relationships: 1964-1966
 - General: 1965-1972
- Radio: 1959-1966
- General: 1958-1974

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE (NAS)

- Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Research: Ad hoc: 1966-1967

ORGANIZATION: NAS: SPACE SCIENCE BOARD (SSB)

- Beginning of Program: 1958
- Chairman (Berkner L V): Addresses: National Science Policy for Space Age: 1958
- Committees
 - Atmospheres of Earth & Planets
 - Meetings: 1960
 - Report: 1960
 - General: 1960
 - Chemistry of Space & Exploration of Moon & Planets
 - Meetings: 1958-1960
 - Membership: 1958-1960
 - Report: 1959-1960
 - Subcommittee to Study Mass Spectrometry: 1958-1959
 - General: 1958-1960
 - Consideration of Relativistic Clock Experiments: Ad hoc: 1958
 - Exobiology: 1960
 - Future Vehicular Development: Proposed: 1958
 - General Engineering Service & Coordination: 1958-1959
 - Geodesy: 1959-1960
 - Immediate Problems: 1958
 - Interplanetary Probes & Space Stations: Ad hoc: 1958
 - Ionospheres of Earth & Planets

- Meetings: 1958-1960
 - Membership: 1958-1960
 - Report: 1958-1960
 - Working Groups: 1958
 - General: 1959-1960
 - Man in Space: 1960
 - Meteorological Aspects of Satellites
 - Meetings: 1958-1960
 - Membership: 1958-1960
 - Report: 1958-1960
 - Optical & Radio Astronomy
 - Meetings: 1958-1960
 - Membership: 1958-1960
 - Report: 1958-1960
 - General: 1958-1960
 - Physics of Fields & Particles in Space
 - Meetings: 1958-1960
 - Membership: 1958-1960
 - Report: 1958-1960
 - Subcommittee on Emulsion Blocks: 1958-1960
 - Programming: 1958-1969
 - Project West Ford: Ad hoc: 1960
 - Psychological & Biological Research
 - Meetings: 1960
 - Membership: 1958-1960
 - Reorganization: 1960
 - Report: 1958-1960
 - General: 1958-1960
 - Space Projects: 1958-1960
 - Upper Atmosphere Rocket Research
 - Meetings: 1960
 - Membership: 1959-1960
 - General: 1959-1960
 - WESTEX: Ad hoc: 1959-1960
- Conferences
 - Analysis of Meteorites: 1959-1960
 - Photochemistry of Far Ultraviolet: 1959
 - Planetary Atmospheres: 1960
 - Radar Astronomy: 1959
- Group on Physics of Planetary Surfaces & Atmospheres: Joint with Armed Forces-NRC
Committee on Bioastronautics: Proposed: 1959-1960
- Group on Space Probe Sterilization: Ad hoc: 1959
- Meetings
 - High Altitude Photography: Joint with Air Force: 1960
 - Problems of Detecting Extraterrestrial Life: 1958-1959
 - Relations with COSPAR: 1960
 - [1st-8th]: 1958-1960
- Membership: 1958-1960
- Memoranda: Nos 1-190: 1958-1960

- Panels
 - Data & Publications: 1959-1960
 - Planetary Atmospheres: Ad hoc: 1960
 - Tracking & Orbit Computation: Ad hoc: 1960
- Relationships: Armed Forces-NRC Committee on Bioastronautics: 1958-1960
- Reports
 - Science in Space: 1959-1960
 - General: 1958-1960
- Requests for Support
 - Proposals: 1958-1959
 - Recommendations: 1958-1959
- Scientific Programs
 - Policy: 1958-1960
 - Ten Year Program Proposed: 1959
 - General: 1958-1960
- Working Groups
 - Planetary Atmospheres: Ad hoc: 1960
 - Upper Atmosphere Rocket Research: Ad hoc: 1959

DIVISIONS OF THE NRC

MATHEMATICS

- Committee on Space Mathematics: Ad hoc
 - Meetings: 1960-1962
 - Report to Space Science Board: 1962-1963
 - Survey of Mathematicians & Mathematical Problems in Connection with Space Activities: 1960-1961
 - General: 1960-1963

MEDICAL SCIENCES

- Armed Forces-NRC Committee on Bioastronautics: 1959-1962

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

- Space Science Board: Committees
 - Annual Review of COSPAR Sterilization Objectives: Ad hoc: 1967
 - International Relations: 1967-1969
 - Large Space Telescope: Ad hoc: 1969
 - Life Sciences: 1967-1968
 - Space Biology & Medicine: 1971-1973
 - Space Medicine: 1969-1971
 - Water Quality Standards for Long-Duration Manned Space Missions: Ad hoc: 1967
- Space Science Board: Meetings
 - Possible Approaches to Soviet Union on Sterilization of Mars Spacecraft: 1968
 - Relations with COSPAR: 1968
 - [22nd-32nd]: 1967-1970
- Space Science Board

- Membership: 1967
- Memoranda: 1969-1972
- Memoranda: Nos 415-171: 1967-1968
- Panel on Earth-Orbital Astronomy: Ad hoc: 1968
- Panel on Quarantine of Venus: Ad hoc: 1967
- Reports: 1967-1973
- Scientific Programs: 1967-1972
- Studies: Human Factors in Long-Duration Spaceflight: 1967-1972
- Space Science Board Summer Studies
 - 1973 Program
 - 1971 Program
 - 1970 Program
 - 1969 Program
 - Microbiology: 1969-1970
 - Physics of Outer Solar System: 1969
 - Space Biology: 1968-1970
 - 1968 Program
 - 1966 Program
 - Group on Cardiovascular Physiology: 1968
 - Group on Respiratory Physiology: 1967-1968
 - Report: 1967-1968
- Space Science Board: Symposia
 - Gravity & Organism: 1967-1971

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING

CONTRACTS

- Space Science Board Studies: Human Factors in Long-Duration Spaceflight: 1967-1972
- Space Science Board Summer Studies
 - 1969 Program
 - 1964 Program
 - 1962 Program

FINANCE

- Funds: Grants: 1960-1966

GOVERNMENT

AGENCIES & DEPARTMENTS

- Air Force: 1958-1974
- Commerce: Weather Bureau: 1958-1961
- Defense
 - Inter-range Instrumentation Group: 1960-1962
 - General: 1958-1964
- Federal Communications Commission: 1959
- NASA

- Aeronautics & Astronautics Coordinating Board: 1960-1964
- Conferences: 1959-1965
- Cooperation with COSPAR: 1958-1964
- Offices: 1960-1965
- Reports: 1959-1965
- General: 1958-1968
- NASA Scientific Programs
 - Apollo: 1961-1968
 - Cooperations
 - Great Britain: 1959-1960
 - IQSY: 1961-1963
 - USSR: 1959-1965
 - Funding: 1959-1967
 - Life Sciences: 1960-1970
 - Manned Space Flight: 1961-1969
 - Mercury: 1959-1962
 - Planetary Exploration: 1960-1967
 - Policy: 1958-1965
 - Rocket Soundings: 1960-1964
 - Satellites: 1959-1965
 - Summaries: 1959-1965
 - General: 1959-1969
- NASA Working Groups
 - Follow-on Surveyor Instrumentation: Ad hoc: 1963-1964
 - NASA-University Relationships: 1961

CONGRESS

- Committee on Science & Astronautics: Panel on Science & Technology: 1962

EXECUTIVE

- National Aeronautics & Space Council: 1959-1965
- President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC): 1958-1965
- General: 1958-1966

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- International Agreements: 1960-1965
- Treaties: US-USSR: Space Treaty Proposed: 1966
- United Nations
 - Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space: 1958-1974
 - International Cooperation Year: 1965
 - International Telecommunications Union: 1958-1963
 - World Meteorological Organization: 1962-1974