



National Science Foundation Status for CAPS, March 2018

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Solar and Planetary Astronomy Program

Division of Astronomical Sciences

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Status

- Two planetary astronomers:
Dr. Linda French
Dr. Faith Vilas
- FY18 budget finally approved
- National Center for O/IR Astronomy (NCOA)



New Directions - NCOA

- National Center for O/IR Astronomy
- Integrates NSF-funded NOAO, Gemini, and LSST operations under a single organizational framework, managed by one management organization.
- National focal point for domestic and international partnerships.
- No additional funding, no change in programs, no interruption of current operations, and no change in currently supported management organization.
- Consolidates NSF oversight responsibilities.
- Plan to implement as of Oct 1, 2018.

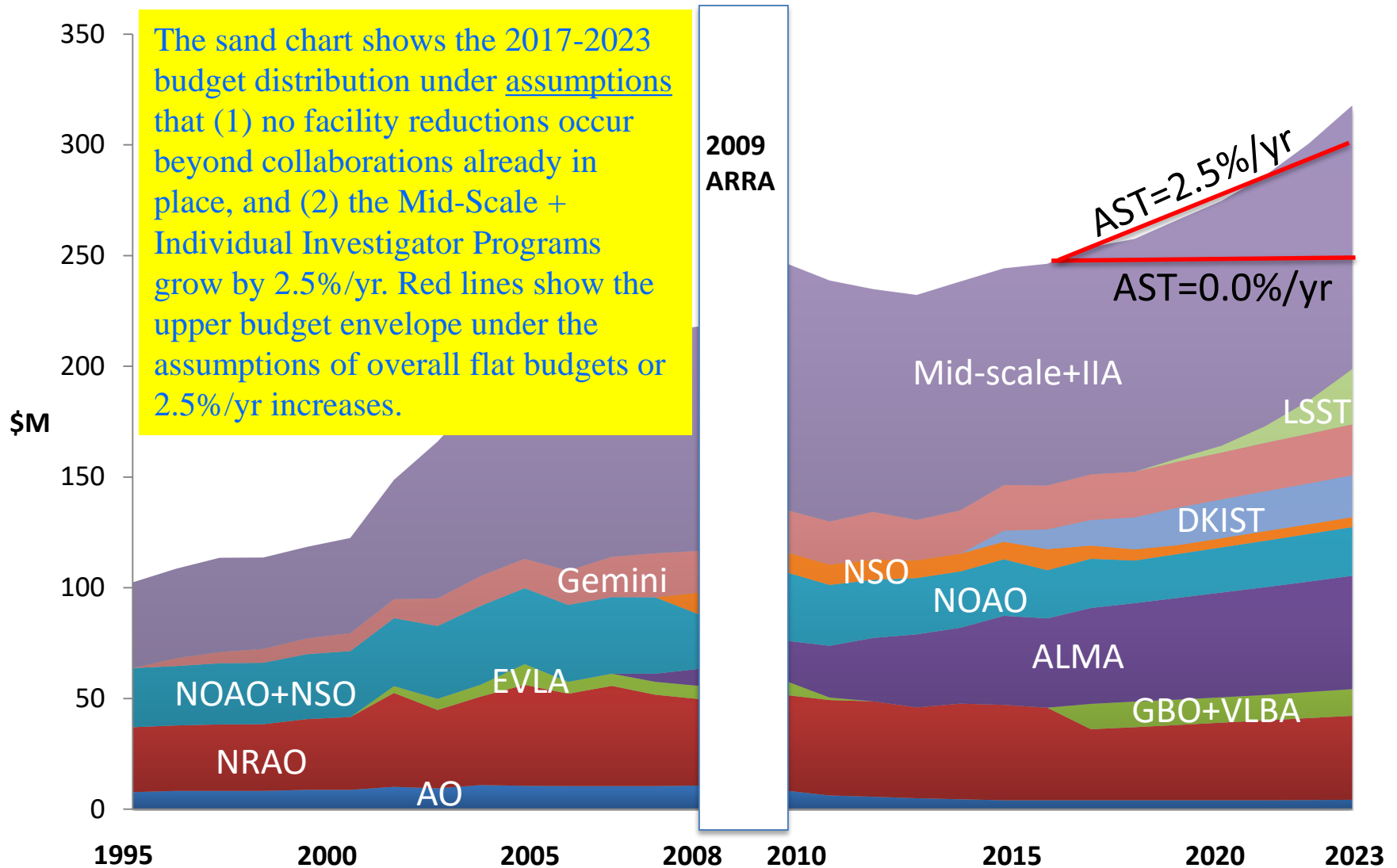


Budget

- Steady downward trend of purchasing power.
- Community/Foundation success in creating new facilities require continuous reshaping of program.
- FY18 budget announced 23 March – increase!
Now being addressed.



Hypothetical Budget Runouts for AST

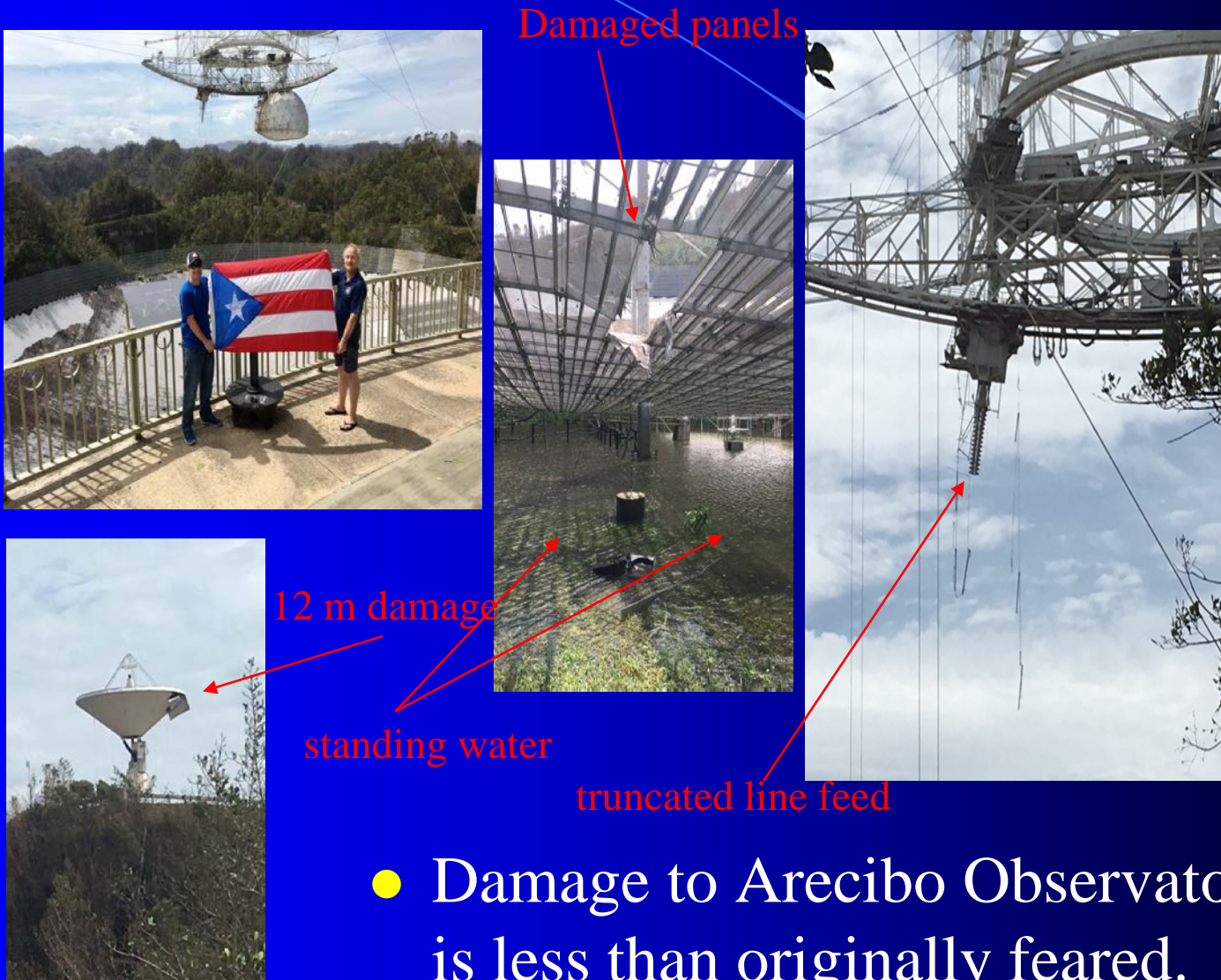




Divestment

- Since the Portfolio Review in 2012, AST has been working on divestment of legacy facilities that were given lower priority for scientific impact.
- The term has been softened to include continuing AST support, but at much reduced levels.
- Formal process to comply with National Environmental Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Historic Preservation Act.
- Consultant-prepared Environmental Impact Statement, first released as draft, public comment, then final version leading to formal Record of Decision endorsed by NSB and signed by Director or designee.

Arecibo Observatory: Hurricane Maria





Divestment Facilities Status - Arecibo

- The facility sustained significant damage, but less than anticipated, considering that it was directly in the path of Hurricane Maria. (Peak winds recorded were 108 mph.)
- Damage includes mesh panels in the dish and loss of the line feed for atmospheric radar.
- Rough estimates have been made for repair and restoration.
- \$16M has been appropriated for repair and recovery of Caribbean radio facilities – Arecibo and VLBA in Virgin Islands



Divestment Facilities Status - Arecibo

- The general published preferred alternative is to bring on an operating consortium; it would gradually assume the majority of the funding support, while the NSF communities maintain some level of access.
- Univ. of Central Florida assumes direction of Arecibo on 1 April; transition between SRI and UCF currently underway.

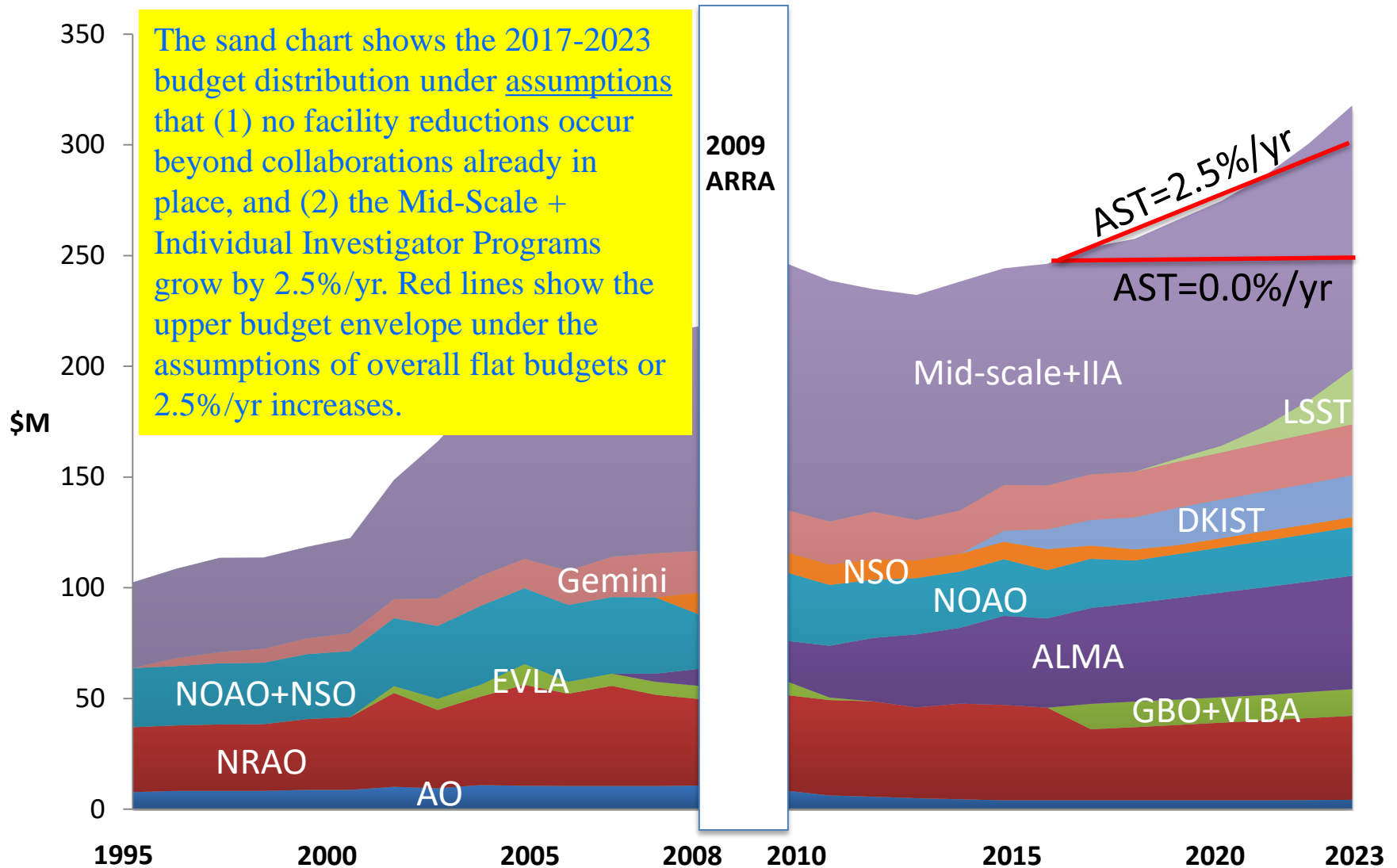


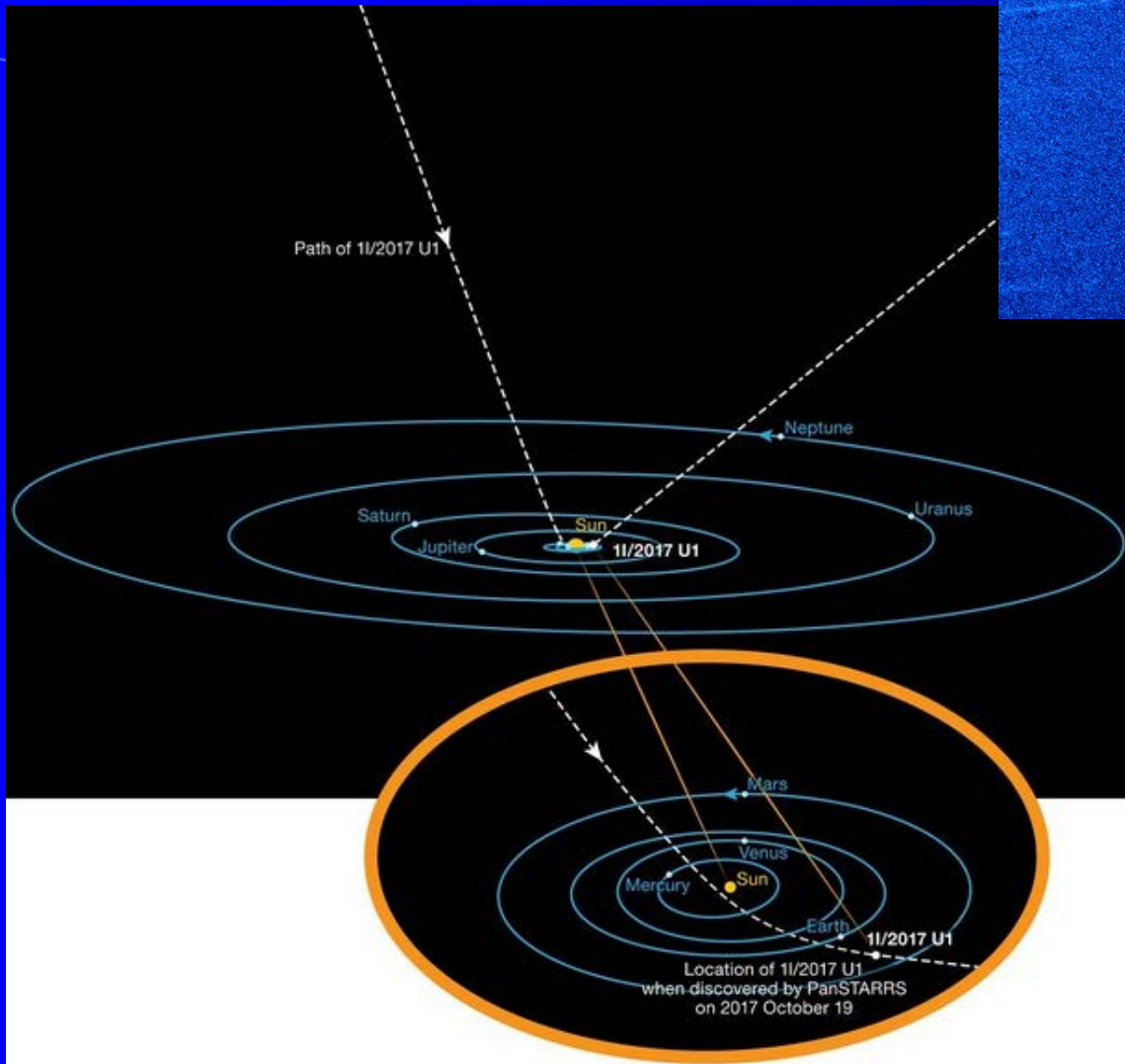
The Elephant in the Room

- NSF practice is that operations costs of Major Research Equipment and Facility Construction (MFREC)-funded major new facilities are borne by the Division that is the host discipline.
- AST is absorbing DKIST operations into current budget planning.
- LSST operations are the next wedge. In the event of continued flat funding (or less) and no change in policy, a major realignment of facility support will be required to preserve a balance with the grants program.



Hypothetical Budget Runouts for AST





1I/2017 U1

Oumuamua



1I/2017 U1

Oumuamua





SOLAR AND PLANETARY RESEARCH GRANTS

NSF 16-602

PILOT PROGRAM – 2 YEARS

Covers planetary astronomy:

Solar System and extrasolar planets

Covers solar astronomy

THROUGH FY18...

THERE STILL REALLY IS NO DEADLINE DATE

We are working to reduce time pressure on you and on us



WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR...

Scientists don't really believe it is a rolling deadline

Schedule at which different scientific disciplines covered by this program has received proposals varies

For Solar System And Exoplanets:

Proposal pressure - coupled with date – dictated number and date(s) of panels

Smaller panels held later in year



MORE ADVICE...

No advantage to submitting early, late or whenever –

No limits on the number of proposal submissions on different topics

We aren't in a rush to consider your proposal, even if you are

We will reject proposals that we determine will not be funded as soon as practicable

If your proposal is rejected, you cannot submit another version of the same proposal until one year after you submitted the rejected proposal



AREAS OF CONCERN

I. PLANETARY SCIENCES FOCUSED MORE TOWARD PLANETARY GEOLOGY

THERE IS NO PLANETARY SCIENCE DIVISION AT NSF

THIS IS A GREY AREA

If you choose to apply to planetary astronomy (SPG), you must demonstrate how your proposed research benefits planetary astronomy.

The Program Director will screen proposals

The Review Panel will be instructed to consider a proposal's applicability to planetary astronomy



AREAS OF CONCERN

II. CIRCUMSTELLAR DISKS:

Consider whether your proposal is related more to planet detection and formation or to star formation when submitting to SPG

THIS IS A GREY AREA

If you consider your proposal to be possibly more related to AAG, submit it by their 15 Nov deadline. If we think it is better suited for SPG, we will shift it over from AAG and no harm is done.

BUT, a proposal submitted to SPG that is largely star formation related to circumstellar disks, will be Returned Without Review, if it is submitted after the 15 Nov AAG deadline



AREAS OF CONCERN

III. DUPLICATION OF PROPOSALS BETWEEN NASA AND NSF

We ask you to let us know if they have been submitted to NASA

...and we check

If the proposal is already approved for full funding by NASA, we will not consider it

Sometimes the agencies will jointly fund a proposal

We WILL NOT FUND the same research twice



AREAS OF CONCERN

IV. AND MORE ABOUT NASA

The NSF does not consider proposals that are predominantly intended to reduce NASA spacecraft or archival data only (this includes HST)

That's what NASA and HST grants are for.

The NSF WILL consider proposals that incorporate NASA spacecraft or archival data as part of a broader investigation



**PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS SHOULD
PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE
CHANGES THIS YEAR IN**

**PROPOSAL AND AWARD POLICIES
AND PROCEDURES GUIDE, NSF 18-1,
(aka PAPPG)**

**WHICH DESCRIBES ALL
REQUIREMENTS EXCEPT FOR THOSE
SUPERSEDED SPECIFICALLY IN AN
INDIVIDUAL SOLICITATION.**

QUESTIONS?

