

Decadal Surveys and the Hill

Jean Toal Eisen, AURA

Congress Loves Decadal Surveys

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For Science, the Committee's recommendation strives to keep NASA's near-term launches on track to continue progress in exploring our solar system and the universe, understanding the Sun, and observing our changing planet. The Committee expects NASA to continue making progress on the recommendations of the National Academies' decadal surveys, now and in the future.

For Exploration and Space Operations, the Committee's recommendation maintains support for ongoing activities in LEO, for the production of the vehicles that will take U.S. astronauts to the

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TITLE VI—SCIENCE

SEC. 601. MAINTAINING A BALANCED SCIENCE PORTFOLIO.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress reaffirms the sense of Congress that—

(1) a balanced and adequately funded set of activities consisting of research and analysis grant programs, technology development, suborbital research activities, and small, medium, and large space missions, contributes to a robust and productive science program and serves as a catalyst for innovation and discovery; and

(2) the Administrator should set science priorities by following the recommendations and guidance provided by the scientific community through the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine decadal surveys.

(b) POLICY REAFFIRMATION.—Congress reaffirms the policy of the United States set forth in section 501(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Transition Authorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–10; 51 U.S.C. 20302 note), which states, “It is the policy of the United States to ensure, to the extent practicable, a steady cadence of large, medium, and small science missions”.

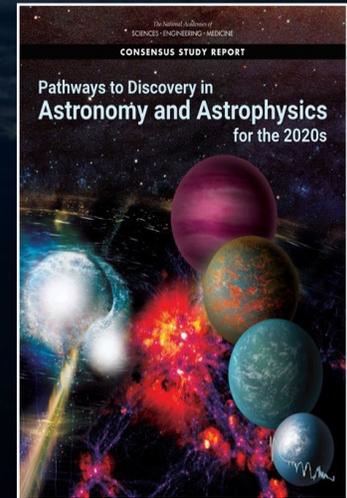
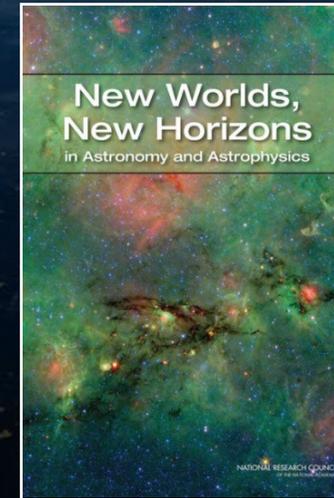
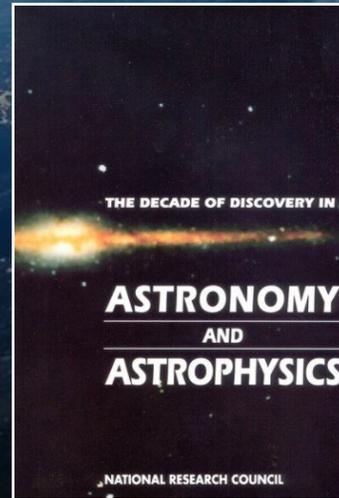
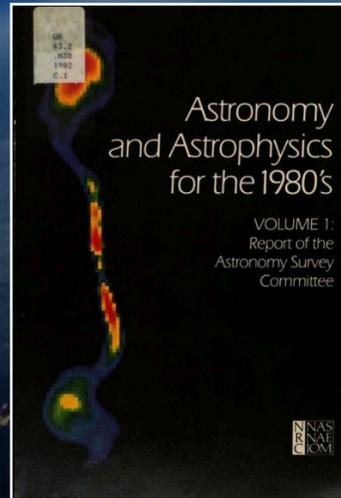
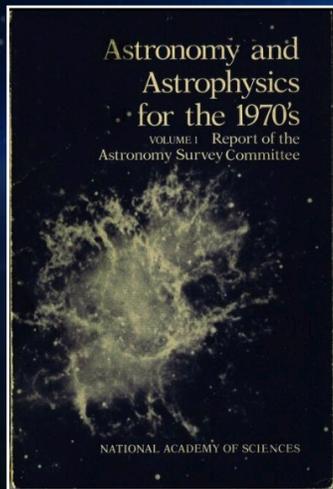
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- It's not just Astronomy
- Now have decadal surveys in all NASA science fields
- And in other arenas

How We Got Here - Astrophysics Flagships Over the Decades



The Great Observatories



Decadal
launch

1972
1990

1982
1999

1991
2003

2001
2021

2011
2027

2021
2035+

How We Got Here – NSF Large Facilities Over the Decades

Very Large Array



VLBA



Gemini



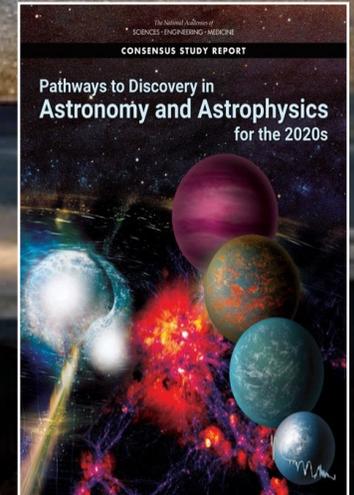
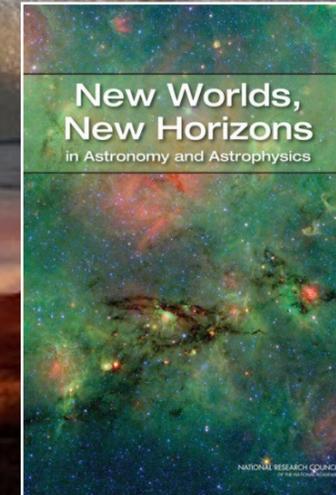
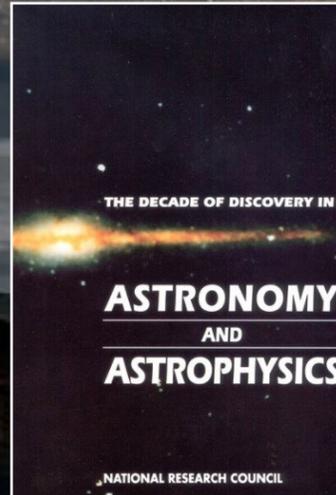
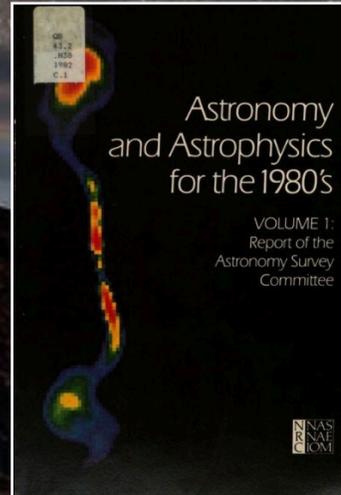
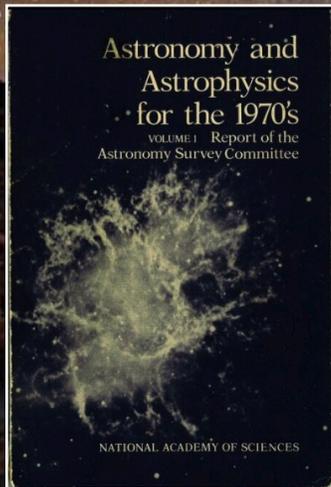
ALMA



Rubin



US ELT



Decadal 1972

1982

1991

2001

2011

2021

Operational 1980

1993

1999, 2001

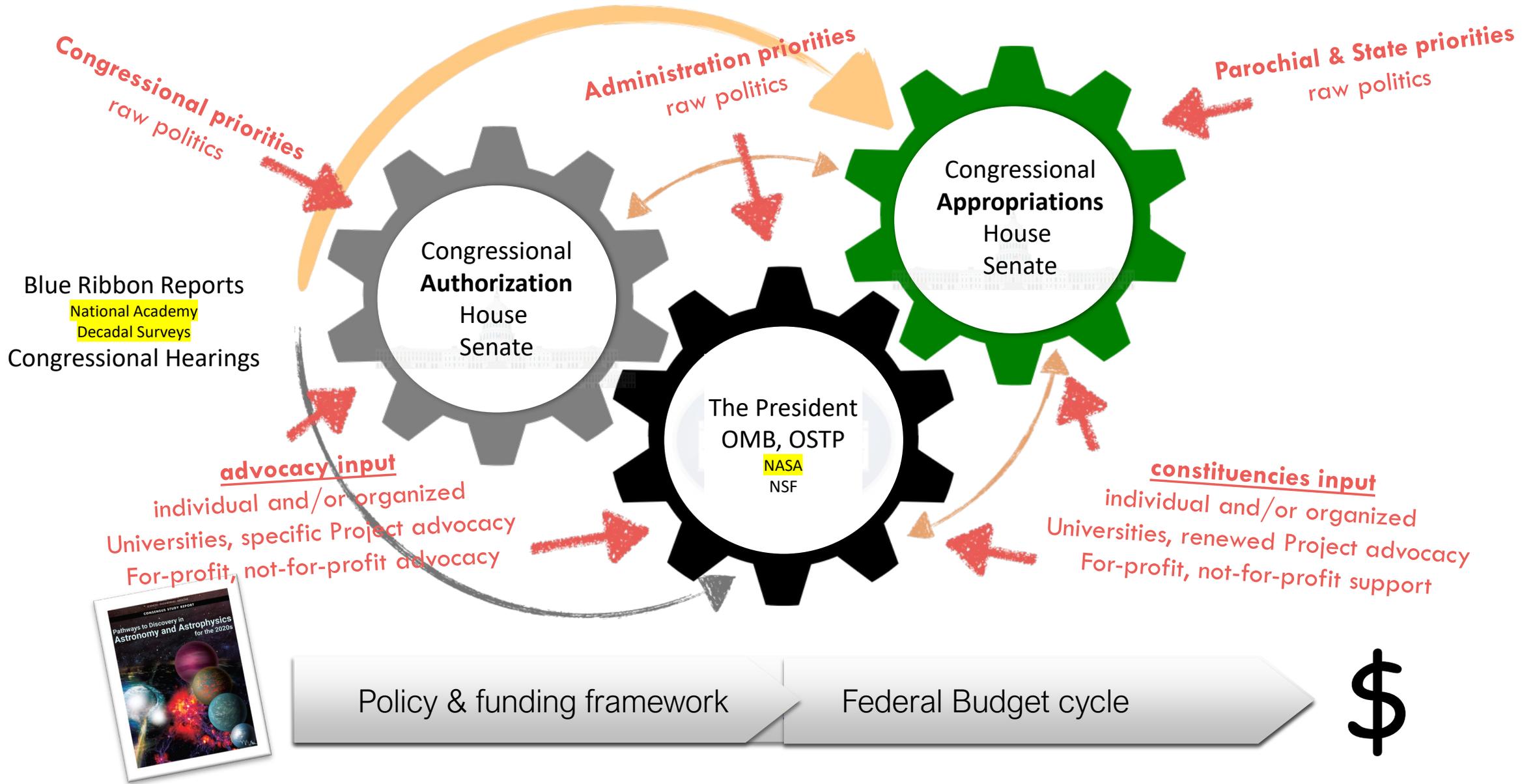
2011

2025

???

The US founders purposely created a “Rube Goldberg like” system

basic assumption: *no one constituency has a monopoly on wisdom*



It takes sustained effort

- Annual Visits
- Updates on Progress
- A champion (or champions) helps immensely

Roman – A Case Study

	President's Budget Request	Actual Funding Provided By Congress	Notes
FY 2015	\$14 million	\$50 million	Congress added funds to jump start
FY 2016	\$14 million	\$90 million	
FY 2017	\$90 million	\$105 million	
FY 2018	\$126.6 million	\$150 million	
FY 2019	0	\$312.2 million	Budget proposes cancellation, but Congress restores funding
FY 2020	0	\$510.7 million	
FY 2021	0	\$505.2 million	
FY 2022	\$501.6 million	\$501.6 million	Budget = Appropriations
FY 2023	\$482.2 million	\$482.2 million	
FY 2024	\$407.3 million	\$407.3 million	
FY 2025	\$384 million	??	

What Are Folks on the Hill Saying?

- Don't temper ambition
- But be realistic about costs
- Reaffirm priority of previous recommendations
- Make the decision rules clear
- Spell Out Policy Proposals
- Understand the context
 - Congressional priorities
 - New Models (servicing, in-space assembly, partnerships)

Things You Need the Agencies to Do

- Be ambitious. Be concrete.
 - and include a future decadal wedge in budget
- Include Decadal Priorities in Budgets
 - Easier for Congress if they don't start at zero
- Tell you how you can help – and with whom



Questions

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