

Update from the Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics

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Areas of CAA Concern

- Budget Uncertainty
- NSF/AST and DOE/HEP did not participate in our April Meeting (NASA SMD-Astrophysics did)
 - The community welcomes discussions with agencies and engagement in priority-setting especially in times of uncertainty
- OMB has rejected the continuing resolution's FY24 “emergency” spending on NSF major research infrastructure
 - South Pole and its ability to host astrophysics experiments will depend on funding. Cuts to Facilities big threat to astronomy.
- Interagency cooperation on big data and Rubin-Roman synergy

Areas of CAA Concern, continued

- NASA has delayed by 1 year the SMEX call. Not clear if next MIDEX tied to SMEX schedule.
- NASA has not yet released ROSES-2025 (normally February)
- Loss of TDRS and transition to private space communications will limit time domain missions (TDAMM was a priority area in Astro2020).
- NASA is combining all its science advisory committees into one. Astronomy's other FACA committee besides CAA, the AAAC, has not met since November 2024.

Areas of Success for Astronomy & Astrophysics Decadal Priorities

- Vera Rubin Observatory
 - Telescope commissioned
 - Camera installed!
 - First photons collected!
 - “First Light” this summer
- Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope
 - On budget and about to go into testing
 - Targeting NLT May 2027 launch
- NASA launched SPHERE-X on March 11, 2025
 - Medium class explorer doing an all sky near-infrared spectroscopic survey