LNA LABORATÓRIO NACIONAL DE ASTROFÍSICA

GEMINI OBSERVATORY

Reunião de Usuários do Observatório Gemini

- Gemini Transition Plan

1. Board Priorities

- To deliver and operate high-quality instruments that represent the priorities of the Gemini community
- To provide a high fraction of queue operations with appropriate data quality control, data products, and completion fraction
- To have the ability to remotely operate the telescopes
- To better interface with the partner community

Main Transition Elements

- Completion of existing instrument projects
- Provide for ongoing instrument deliveries
- Maintain ability to support requested level of queue and classical observing
- Remote telescope operations
- Improve contact between observatory and partner communities
- Staffing and Operations changes

3. Science Operations
3.1. Queue and Classical Observing Modes

- Support current classical/queue mix - 10%/90% by user choice
- classical observing advantages
  - user interaction with observatory - users better understand Gemini and its processes, Gemini gains from visiting scientists
  - some science programs benefit - e.g., spectral detections of unknown sources
- queue observing advantages
  - highly ranked science gets required time on sky; not decided by weather
  - some science programs require special conditions, e.g., exceptional image quality for some science; limited cloud cover for AO laser propagation
  - regular multi-instrument queue facilitates rapid Targets of Opportunity

3. Science Operations
3.1. Queue and Classical Observing Modes

- queue visitors
  - an option (already possible now), especially helpful for those new to queue observing
  - benefits of interaction, with benefits of queue
  - longer visits (~2 weeks) for students or others who have time

3. Science Operations

3.2. Small core scientific leadership

- astronomers who maintain research efforts
- serve as instrument scientists
- interact with astronomical community
  - understanding their needs and concerns
- fewer research astronomers than currently

3.3. Non-research observers

- will execute ~75% of queue
- primary cost savings: 100% of their effort for support work

3. Science Operations

Changes to accommodate budget cut:

- Total research and training of junior scientists at Gemini is reduced
  - significantly fewer postdocs
- Reduce human effort of queue
  - improved software to automate work
  - eliminate queue planning during classical runs
  - eliminate planning of poor weather programs
  - reduce data quality assessment in poor weather

Short-term Changes

Operations changes aimed at saving staff time for immediate future

- Don't plan the poor-weather queue
- Less rigorous/detailed time accounting
- No band 4 time accounting
- No band 4 Data Quality Assessment
- Close telescope in poor weather

5. Engaging the Gemini Communities

Direct Interactions between Gemini and the Partner Communities

- Staff/Directorate attendance at National Astronomy meetings
- Gemini Science meetings
- Data workshops
- Phase II Preparation improvements
- Visits by instrument scientists to NGOs