

Summary of NYAC Telescope Kickoff Meeting held at RIT April 17, 2009

Present: David Axon (RIT), Stefi Baum (RIT), Arlin Crotts (Columbia), Harold Hastings (Hofstra), Joel Kastner (RIT), Preeti Kharb (RIT), Eric Mamajek (U of R), Stan Metchev (SUNY Stonybrook), Chris O'Dea (RIT), Deane Peterson (SUNY StonyBrook), Manoj Puravankara (U of R), Michael Richmond (RIT), Wayne Roberge (RPI), Fred Walters (SUNY StonyBrook)

Remote attendance via web: Tom Balonek (Colgate), Paul Hickson (UBC), Rebecca Koopman (Union),.

Agenda:

O'Dea presented an over view of a possible process and moderated a discussion of issues. Presentations of telescope concepts were made by Crotts and Hickson, Baum, and Metchev.

The group agreed on the following process which will be presented to the NYAC board of directors (BoD) for approval. The goal of the process is to identify a telescope design which will enable front line research by the NY astronomical community.

1. At the meeting Stan Metchev (Stonybrook), Stefi Baum (RIT), and Steve Lawrence (Hofstra) were nominated to the Telescope Proposal Committee (TPC). The chairman of the board will call for additional nominations to the TPC. The membership of the TPC is subject to approval by the BoD.
2. The TPC will solicit community input on the broad desired parameters for a telescope for NY. These broad parameters could include, e.g., the need for remote observing, the ability for NY Universities to build equipment for the telescope, etc. The TPC will write a call for white papers on telescope concepts. The call will specify the issues which the white papers need to address, e.g., science drivers, technology, funding model, feasibility, etc.
3. The TPC will review the white papers and make a recommendation to the BoD on a telescope concept. For the review process it may be desirable to supplement the TPC with at-large members from the international astronomical community.
4. This process should take about 1 year.