

## **Chandra Users Committee Meeting Report May 18, 2023**

### **Meeting Summary:**

Pat Slane gave the Director's Report on the status of the mission and addressed the progress on past CUC recommendations. Since the last CUC meeting, the observatory has experienced two spacecraft anomalies and three radiation events. The anomalies were due to thermal issues which resulted in 775 ks of lost time, and radiation events of solar nature that resulted in 270 ks of lost time. The HRC returned to science on April 10th 2023, and has been operating since then. Otherwise the observatory has been operating nominally.

Following the CUC's recommendation, the CXC has implemented two specific ToO panels for the upcoming review of Cycle 25 on a trial basis. It was also discussed in the previous meeting with the CUC to implement a new resource cost tool for the ToO's, but this is still under review and will not be available for Cycle 25. Similarly, the CXC is still reviewing whether or not to implement a theory/archive panel as was recommended by the CUC. The CXC removed the time constraint on the multi-cycle proposals for Cycle 25, and have moved the references outside of the 4 page limit as recommended by the CUC. The CXC has continued their research into the scope of switching from the traditional panel oriented review to a Distributed Review and gave an update on their progress, which has been primarily to identify advantages and disadvantages, and working on the requirements.

Initial discussions have begun on the Legacy Initiative, which was proposed by the Senior Review and supported by the CUC. The CXC is looking into assessments of total time, and the process may begin with a committee to identify science themes unique to Chandra in order to focus the white paper call, which will be peer reviewed. The aim is still to send out the call before the end of 2023.

The CXC is doing a review of their Cool Target Program planning. The initial call did not include a science "completion" criteria, and the CXC is looking at the proposals to ascertain their scientific usefulness by continuing their observation. The CXC would like to announce a new CCT call next year, but they will need to determine whether to update the current programs or have all new programs, whereby the old would all be closed.

Rudy Montez provided a report from the Chandra Director's Office, summarizing the Chandra Cycle 24 proposal statistics and plans for the upcoming peer review process. The review will be all virtual and dual anonymous. There is a slight decline in the number of proposals but an uptick in oversubscription by time. The LP and VLP pressure has remained steady. A 150 hours of JWST observing time was made available in Cycle 25, and 600 ksec of Chandra observing time was made available for the JWST Call for Proposals. There were three JWST joint programs received from JWST's CfP requesting 241 ks, and three JWST joint requests received in CXC Cycle 25 CfP requesting 51.4 hrs.

As recommended by the CUC, the CXC has worked on promoting DS9's functionality to a broader user base, and devoted a couple of articles to it in the Chandra Newsletters, and added some dedicated threads including Jupyter notebooks on the CXC website. The CXC would still like to hear if the CUC has more ideas on how to reach outside of the community.

Finally, since the funding requested in the Senior Review for writing software to check data for transient events was not awarded, the CXC has worked on a set of instructions to give

to users on how to check for transients in their data and post an Astronomer's Telegram (ATel). The CXC will try again to request funding in the next PPBE 2024. A question was raised by the CUC on whether the CXC had looked into outsourcing the project. The CXC will look into that.

**Additional CUC Business:**

There are 5 CUC members who are rotating off the committee at the end of 2023, but traditionally the CXC has rotated in the new members during the longer two-day in-person meeting in the Fall. However, due to the pandemic this cadence was disrupted, and the CXC is asking the CUC if the members rotating off could remain through the next spring 2024 meeting. The CUC will confer and report back to the CXC on each member's preference.