

ASAC – Charges

Charges for ASAC face-to-face meeting, Charlottesville 5-6 October 2011

1. The Committee is requested to review and comment on the progress of Early Science Cycle 0. This should include: progress with Commissioning and Science Verification; the outcomes of the Call for Proposals and the ALMA Review Process; the delivery of the scientific capabilities offered for Cycle 0; the performance of the ALMA hardware and software in the first stages of Cycle 0; and the performance of the JAO Department of Science Operations and the operation of the ALMA Regional Centers.¹
2. The Committee is particularly requested to consider whether there are “lessons learned” from the Call for Proposals and or the start of Cycle 0, and if so, to provide recommendations to improve future cycles of ALMA operations.¹
3. ASAC will receive updates on matters related to the completion of the full construction program of ALMA, including schedule, budget and the build-up of operational capabilities. ASAC is requested to comment on these topics inasmuch as they relate to the scientific capabilities, and bring any recommendations or concerns to the attention of the Board.
4. ASAC will be provided with an update of the implementation plan of the ALMA Proposal Review Process for full scientific operations, and an early outline of plans for Cycle 1 observing. The Committee is requested to comment on these topics and bring any recommendations or concerns to the attention of the Board.
5. A set of draft principles which will govern the ALMA Development process will be provided to ASAC. In addition, the Executives will provide reports on initiatives taken in the regions to identify possible development projects that may be pursued within the program, and may report on progress of initial scoping and or design studies. The Committee is requested to comment on these topics and particularly to consider and report on priorities for ALMA development projects.
6. ASAC is requested to report on the astronomy community’s expectations of and satisfaction with Early Science Cycle 0, and more generally on ALMA’s interactions with and provision of information resources for the general community.
7. As a standing charge, ASAC is invited to comment on the response from the project to previous ASAC recommendations.

Lewis Ball, on Behalf of the ALMA Board
12 April 2011

¹ The Board recognizes that Cycle 0 observations will have been underway for at most a week at the time of the face-to-face meeting of ASAC which may limit the ability of the Committee to address some elements of charges 1 and 2.