

## **VERITAS Science Board (SB) Minutes 02/12/09**

Present:

Benbow, Buckley, Byrum, Cui, Fortson, Gillanders, Hanna, Krennrich, LeBohec, Mukherjee, Ong, Quinn, Rose, Rovero, Wakely, Williams.

Project office: Gibbs, Criswell.

Absent: Delaware, UMass.

### **1. Approval of Minutes**

The Science Board approved the minutes from the meeting of 01/29/09.

### **2. ESAC**

We discussed the External Science Advisory Committee (ESAC), the external committee that provides review and feedback of our science program. Because of the departure of two members from the committee (Dwek, Marscher), there were discussions with Roger Romani (current ESAC Chair) and various members of VERITAS about possible replacements. Rene reported that Chryssa Kouveliotou, a very accomplished researcher from MSFC and an expert on both GRBs and SGRs, had agreed to serve on the ESAC. This news was applauded by several members of the Science Board. (Note: after the meeting, we learned the James Bullock from UC, Irvine and an expert on the astrophysics of dark matter had also agreed to participate in the ESAC).

### **3. Science Meeting at ANL**

Karen discussed the progress in the organization of the Science/ESAC Meeting at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) in April. She and Bob have set up a web site that will facilitate registering for the meeting. There will be housing available in the on-site Guest House and also hotels in the nearby vicinity. There will be a moderate charge to pay for daily coffee breaks and lunches. Having lunches brought in will save time. An important point raised by Karen is that foreign nationals need to get their information to the ANL folks at least 30 days before the meeting to ensure that ANL can get the proper paperwork set up.

### **4. Summer Collaboration Meeting in Chicago**

Lucy reported on the status of the Summer Collaboration Meeting at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago. Because of other shows and meetings at the same time, hotel space is somewhat scarce and Adler has worked hard to locate a few viable options. Rooms may be a bit more expensive than usual. Earlier there was some discussion of a possible multiwavelength (MWL) meeting, to be held right after the Collaboration Meeting; Lucy reported that Adler would be willing to help with local support for a MWL meeting, but that she needed someone else to do the overall coordination and organization of such a meeting. Similar to the Science Meeting, there will be a moderate registration fee associated with the Collaboration Meeting.

## **5. Publication Policy**

We discussed the proposed revised publications document that had been developed in response to discussions at the January Collaboration Meeting. Wei had some reservations about the ability of individual paper committees to really be effective in contributing to the development/writing of papers; perhaps we are asking too much of such committees. In general, however, there was positive support for the revisions to the publications policies; e.g. Gary mentioned that he felt that the publications document was well motivated and well written. It was agreed that, if needed, we would continue our discussion of the revised policy document and consider approval of the document during an upcoming Science Board telecom.