

Charge for Astrophysics Steering Committee

Background: Strong astrophysics community in Chicago area; growing importance of astrophysics in Nuclear and Particle Physics; nascent astrophysics activities at Argonne; possible synergies with many programs at Argonne; exploration of a lab-wide astro initiative last year, which resulted in a small amount of LDRD funding and encouragement to think bigger.

Vision: A world-class astrophysics program at Argonne that links multiple divisions and directorates; has strong connections to Fermilab, the University of Chicago and other local universities; enhances the ability of the laboratory to attract sponsor support and talent; builds upon the unique capabilities of Argonne; and creates new competencies with benefit across laboratory programs.

Goal of Steering Committee: By April 2007, develop a 6-year strategic plan at funding level of the order of \$3 to 4 million per year that, if adopted, would form the basis for a Laboratory LDRD strategic initiative beginning in 2008 and leading to a self-sustaining and highly synergistic astrophysics program.

Elements of the Plan:

- Cuts across multiple divisions
- Will become self-sustaining
- Creates strong ties with local partners (Fermilab, University of Chicago, and other universities)
- Supports the laboratory's "RIA lite" proposal
- Aligns the efforts of the HEP Division more closely with the DOE-SC mission and the goals of the field as articulated in the EPP2010 Report
- Builds on Argonne core competencies
- Attracts new sponsors (e.g., NASA, NSF)
- Develops new capabilities with broad benefit across the Lab

Possible elements of the task:

- Assess existing program and capabilities in astrophysics
- Gather input from
 - Town meetings
 - Experts
 - AstroInitiative Committee Report
 - DOE Business Plan

Steering Committee Membership:

Harry Weerts (Chair)
Karen Byrum
Steve Kuhlmann
Ernst Rehm
Kenneth Nollett
Bob Wagner
Jim Truran
Mike Pellin
Stephen Streiffer

Bruce Weinstein
Rocky Kolb

Josh Frieman
Roger Dixon

Ex officio:
Al Sattelberger
Liz Stefanski