Dual Anonymous Review Workshop

Wednesday, September 25, 2019



Location:

Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore, Maryland

Description:

STScI has implemented a dual-anonymous proposal system for the HST proposal review process. Under this system, not only are proposers unaware of the identity of the members on the review panel, but the reviewers do not have explicit knowledge of the proposal teams. The goal is to mitigate unconscious bias and allow reviewers to concentrate on the science rather than the scientist. Following the successful implementation with HST, the Director of the NASA Astrophysics Division, Paul Hertz, has directed all Astrophysics GO Programs to implement this process. This workshop will share STScI's experiences in developing and implementing the dual-anonymous review process.

This is a one-day workshop. The morning will be devoted to talks and panel discussions covering the development and implementation of the HST process, including feedback from representatives of the community and the Telescope Allocation Committee panels. The afternoon will provide an opportunity for representatives from other observatories and missions to explore how the process can be adapted for their use.

Schedule and presentations

Morning: Facts and foundations - issues, actions and community reception

Time	Speaker(s)	Title
08:30	Ken Sembach	Welcome & introduction
08:45	Stefanie Johnson (Colorado)	Unconscious bias in reviews
09:15	Neill Reid (STScI)	HST TAC structure and proposal stats – before and after
09:30	Arvind Parmar (ESA)	ESA AO outcomes
09:45	Louis Strolger (STScI)	Preparing the community
10:15	Christina Richey (JPL), Rupali Chandar (Toledo), Brian Williams (GSFC)	Community reactions
10:45		Coffee
11:00	Svea Hernandez, Crystal Mannfolk, Greg Snyder (STScl)	Panel support perspective + levelers
11:45	Priya Natarajan (Yale), Saurabh Jha (Rutgers), Rupali Chandar (Toledo)	Panel chairs & panelist perspective
12:30	Jessica Kirk (Memphis)	Watching the TAC
13:00		Lunch

Afternoon: Spreading the word – adapting the process to other facilities

	Time	Mode	Title	
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13:30	Molly Peeples (STScI)	Lessons learned so far from the HST TAC process
14:00	Breakout sessions:	Challenges for individual observatories – discussion
	3-4 sub-groups	
15:30	Plenary session	Challenges – report out
16:00	Plenary session	Summary and next steps

Reference materials

Report from the Working Group for Anonymising Proposals

HST Cycle 27 Anonymous Proposal Reviews - documentation for submitting and reviewing Cycle 27 proposals

Letter to Astrophysics GO/GI programs from SMD/Director of Astrophysics