

Proposal Cycle: Updates and Plans

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Peer Review Team Lead

Previous actions

Highlights of CDO activities

Report on Cycle 22

Plans for Cycle 23

Move towards dual-anonymous proposal reviews

Previous Actions

The Observatory should consider creating a “Be Cool” program, whereby the program creation tool shows a score for how useful a target will be for cooling the telescope.

—> Resource Costs achieves some of these goals, a specific “Be Cool” program is possible for future cycles

The CUC endorses the idea of creating a working group to look at the best way to handle the expected increase of requests for transient science, and the consideration of a related workshop.

—> Workshop morphed into *Chandra Frontiers in Time-Domain Science* Virtual lecture series, in progress. The working group will be set up in after the lecture series, using recommendations/ideas that emerge from the workshop.

Previous Actions

We strongly recommend that the CXC keep exploring the possibility of Joint Observing programs with ALMA.

—> ongoing

In some cases there are significant differences in proprietary times between the major observatories (in particular HST and Chandra, but also the VLA and ESO) for (typically transient) objects of great community interest, such as GW170817, so as to enable rapid, multi-wavelength follow-ups. We recommend that the Chandra Director approach the other observatories to see if a common set of rules could be adopted.

—> Discussion will be initiated after the workshop and further recommendations from the working group.

Highlights

Cycle 22 Peer Review:

15th - 23rd June- 2020, Fully Remote.

Target List posted 27th July

E-letters, including approved targets and peer review reports were mailed 31st July

Budget letters were mailed 10th Aug

Cost proposal deadline: 24th Sept 2020

Highlights

NASA Hubble Fellowship Program Virtual Symposium Sep 21-25

Virtual exhibit at #AAS236

Virtual booth, including a CSC webinar and ask-an-astro/statistician event.

SAO now institutional member of SDSS-V

SAO scientists access to the SDSS-V spectroscopic data over the next 5 years of the survey.

Spectroscopic followup of CSC source counterparts

Chandra Frontiers in Time-Domain Science: virtual workshop during October.

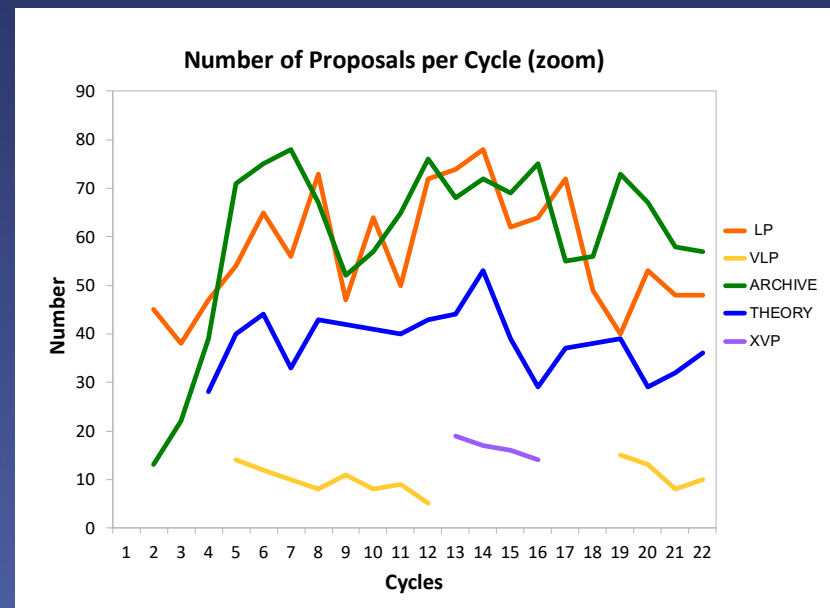
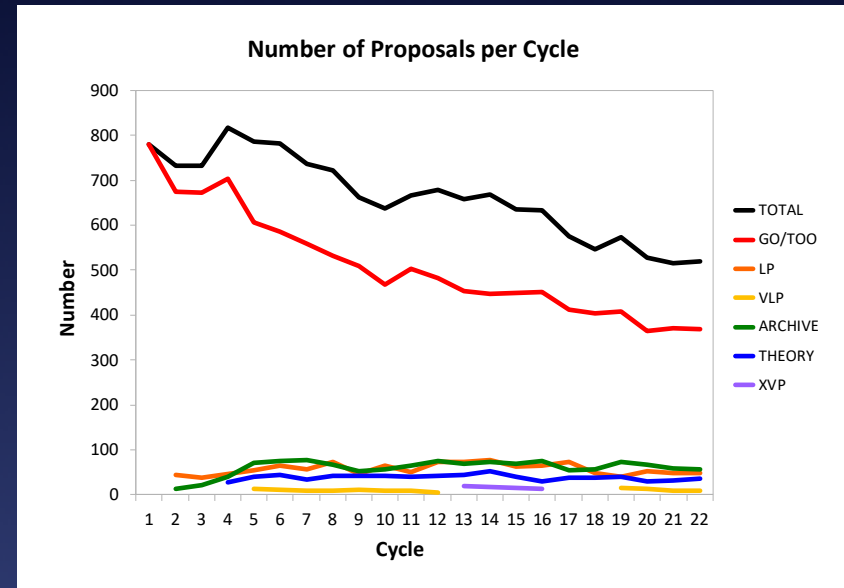
Pat Slane joined CDO as new CXC Director on September 28th

Cycle 22 Proposal Statistics

519 proposals submitted:

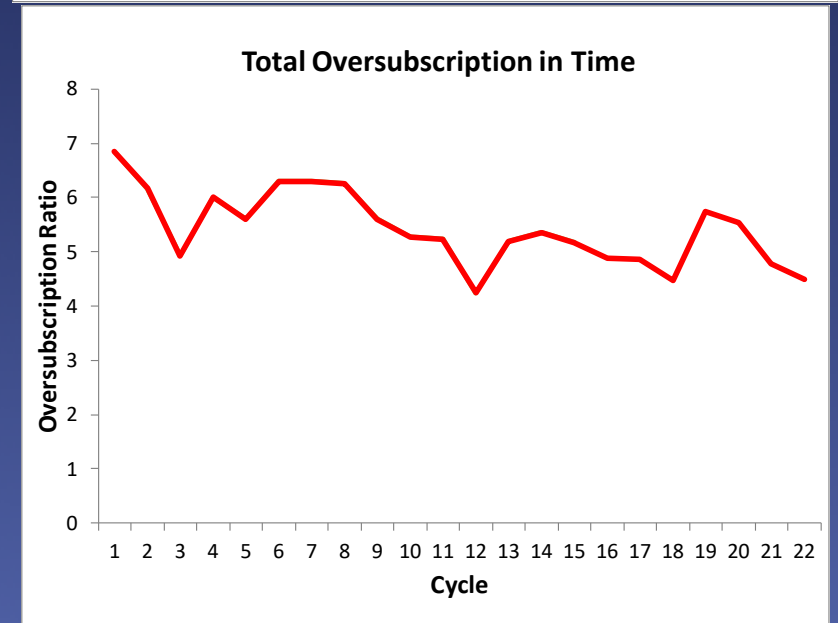
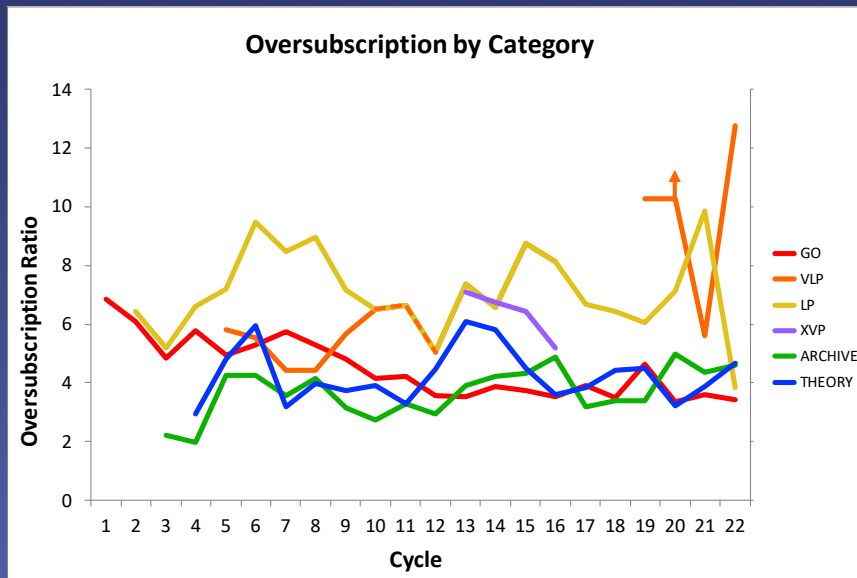
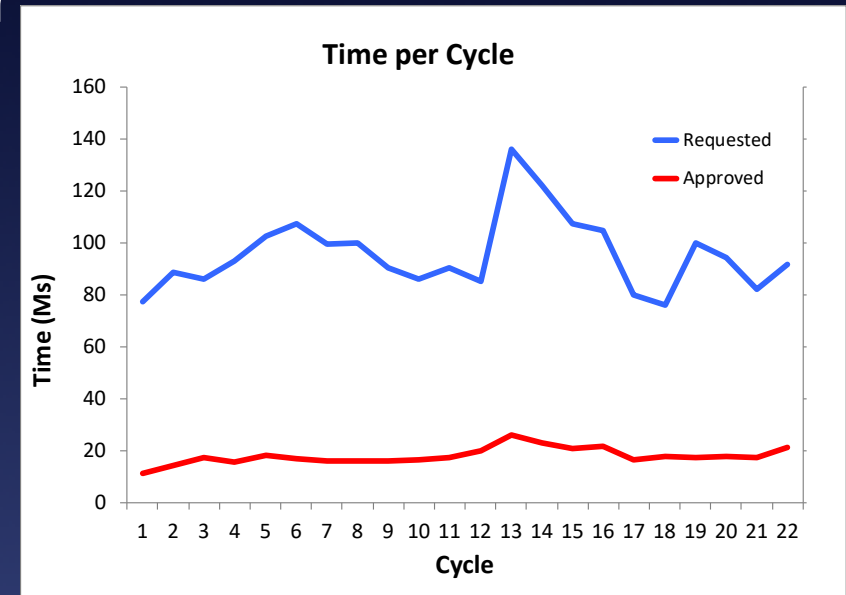
- GO 368 (inc. TOO, 369)
- LP 47 (48)
- VLP 10 (8)
- Archive 57 (58)
- Theory 36 (32)

164 approved, one late approval in September



Cycle 22 Proposal Statistics

- Total Time: 21.6 Ms (4 Ms increase over Cycle 21)
- Oversubscription in time: 4.3
- GO oversubscription: 3.4
- LP oversubscription 3.8
- VLP oversubscription 12.7
- One VLP approved



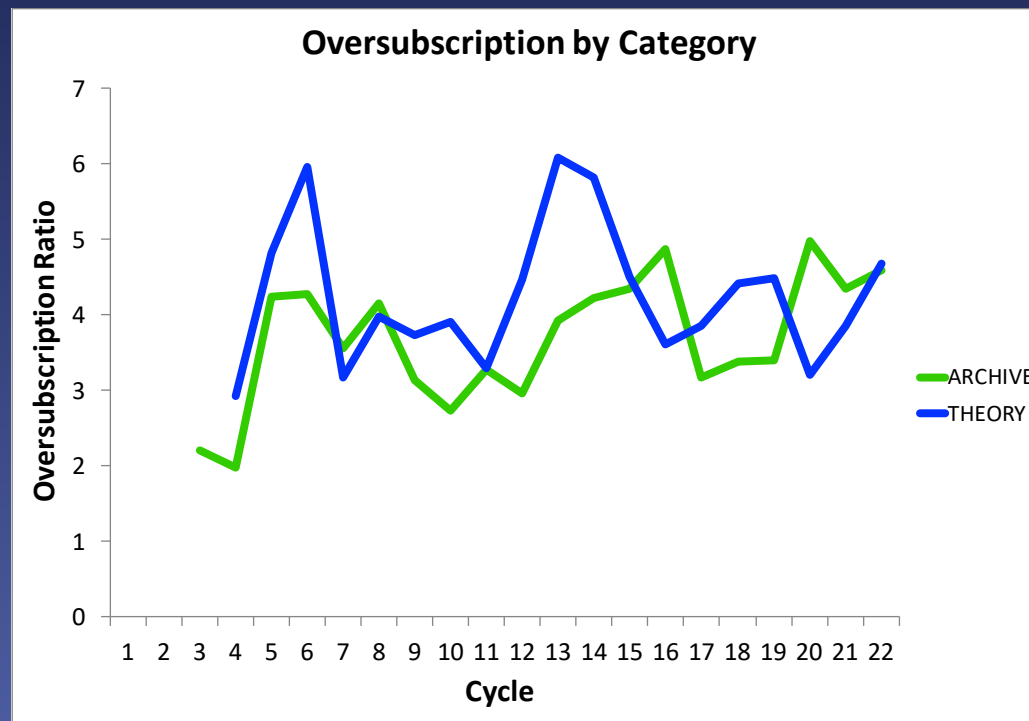
Cycle 22 Proposal Statistics

Archive:

- Budget: \$1050K
- Allocated \$1025K (14)
- Over-subscription: 4.6

Theory:

- Budget: \$600K
- Allocated: \$619K (8)
- Over-subscription: 4.7



Remote Peer Review

Peer review was fully remote:
all staff at home, no reviewer travel.

The schedule was modified as follows:

Discussion times limited to 5 hours/day, 10AM-3PM EST to accommodate reviewers in different time zones

Review lengthened by 3 days, Big Project Panel spanned a weekend. Thanks to reviewers for being so flexible, especially chairs and pundits.

Plenary was recorded, Q&A sessions held prior to the peer review, also “coffee and connect” to enable reviewers to test the connections, zoom and slack

Remote Peer Review

Technical set-up:

Each panel had a facilitator who managed both the meeting software and the panel database - a significant challenge under stressful conditions - many thanks to data systems technical staff who volunteered!

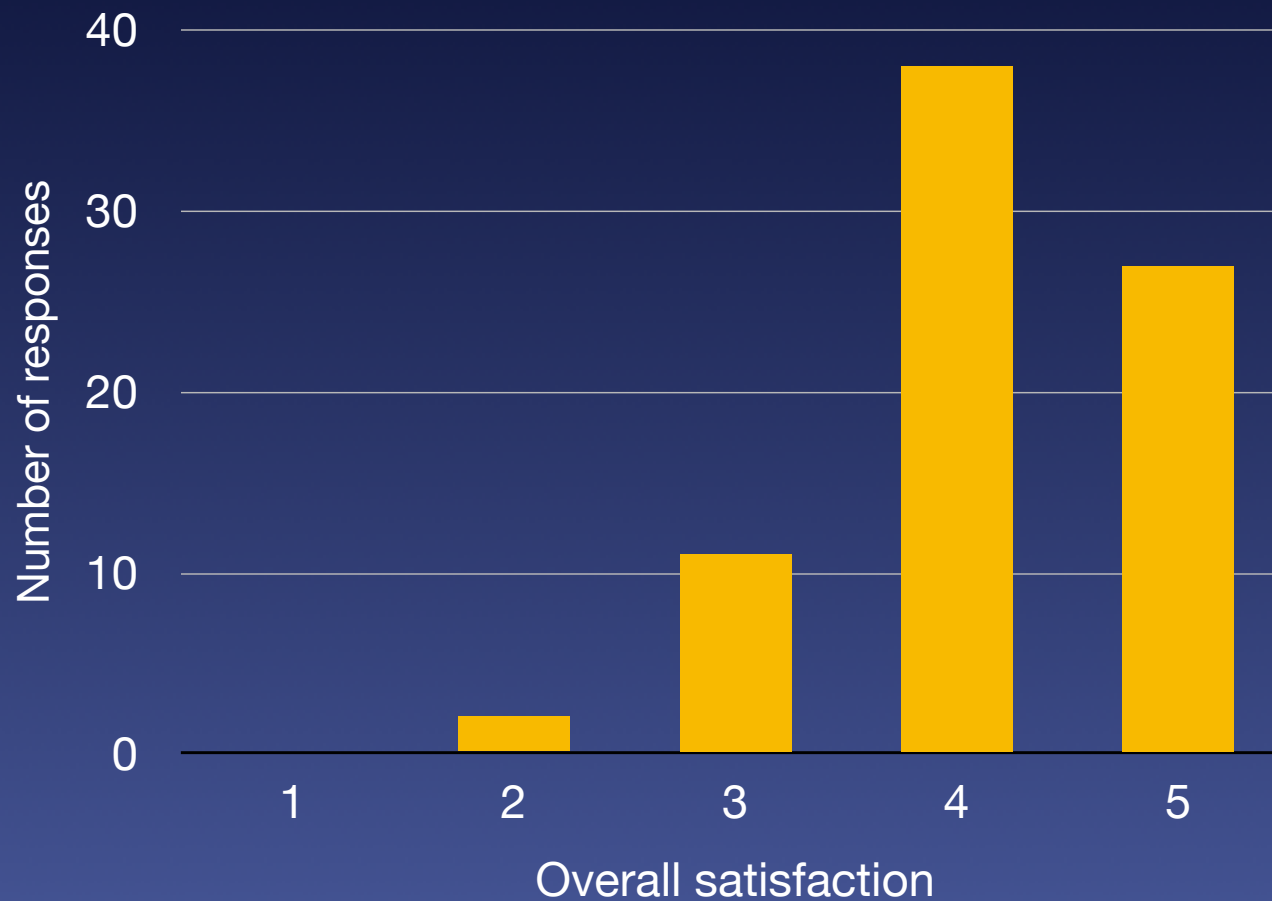
The panel databases were run via virtual machines, allowing networking and backups to work with minimal changes from the hotel environment.

Smithsonian Zoom was used for meeting software, Slack for informal communications.

Overall, went very well!

Given uncertainty in the pandemic timeline, the Cycle 23 peer review will be remote

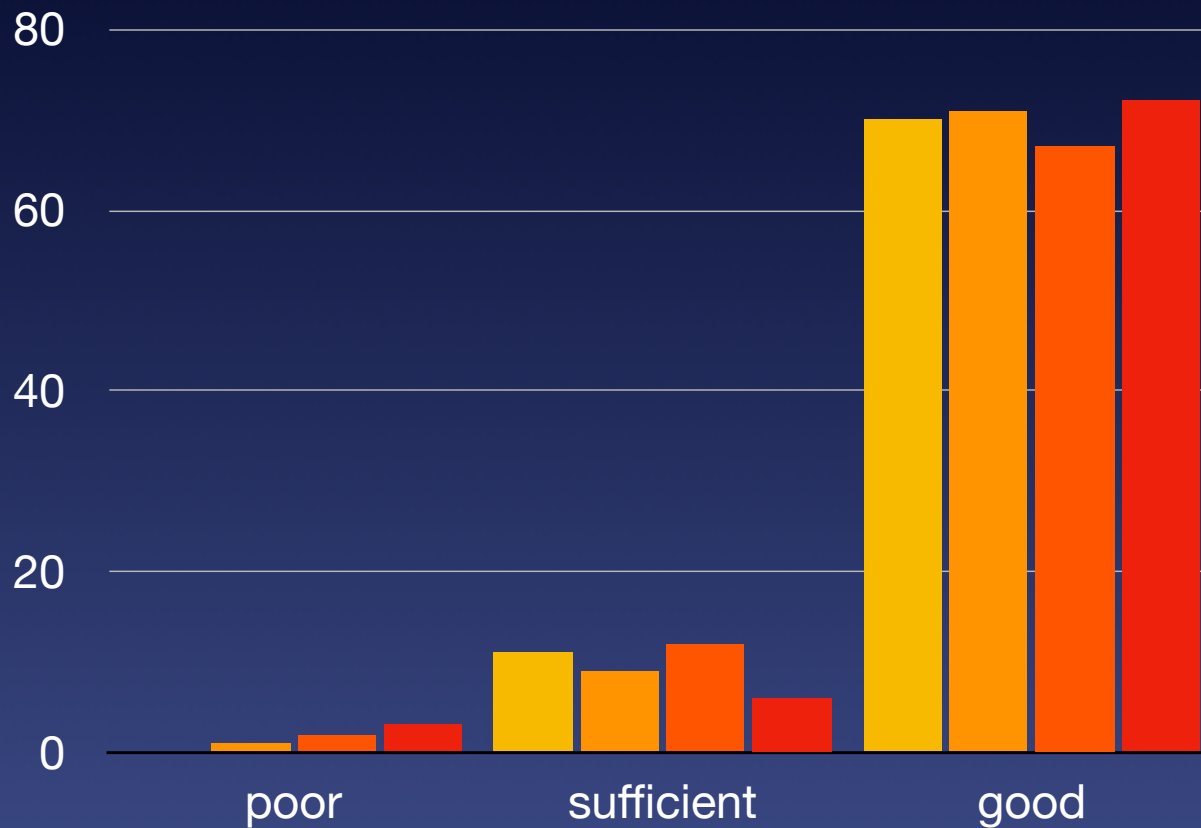
Peer Review Survey Responses



Rate your overall experience at the Cycle 22 remote peer review

CUC October 14 2020

Peer Review Survey Responses



Please evaluate your ability to communicate with/via:



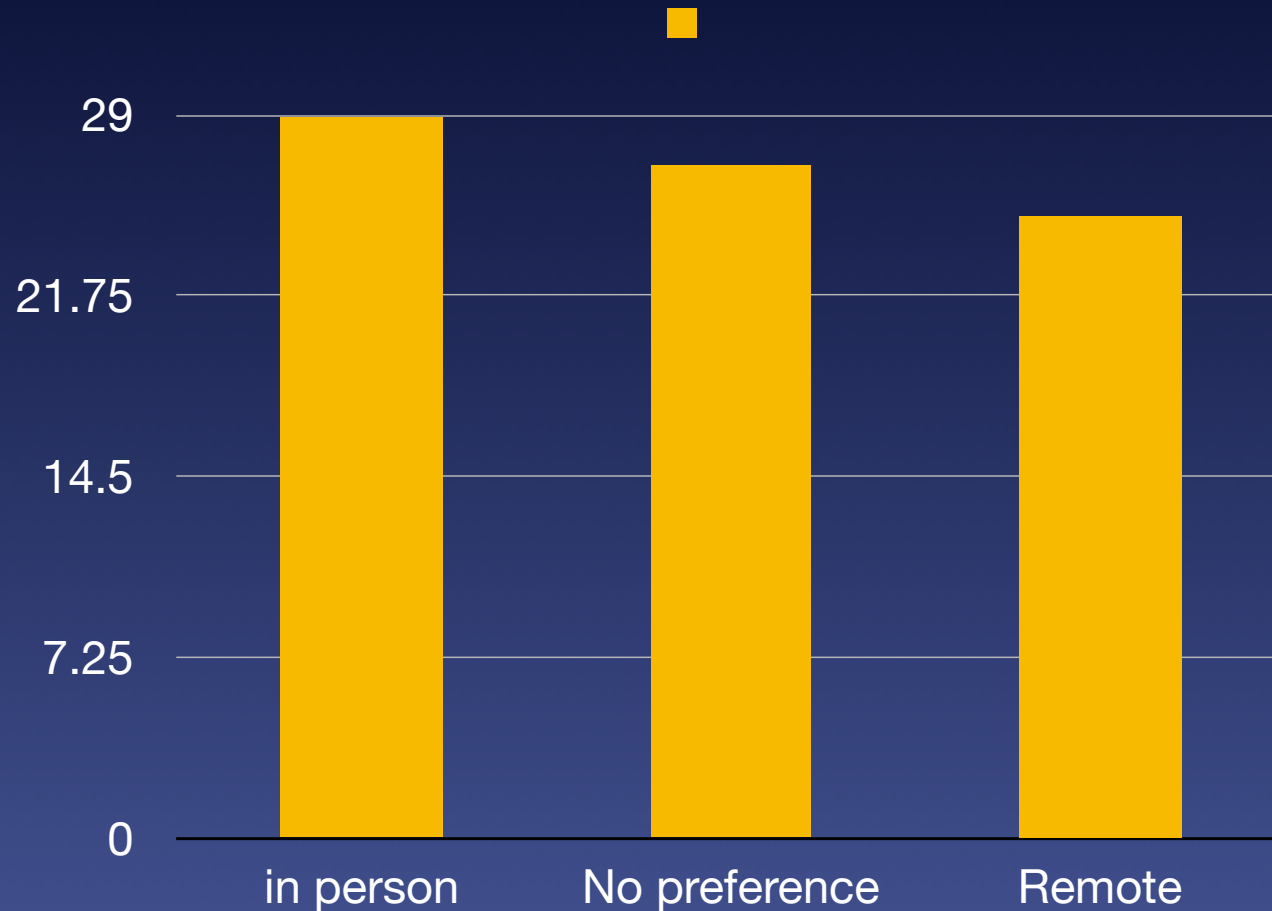
Chandra Staff

panelists

slack

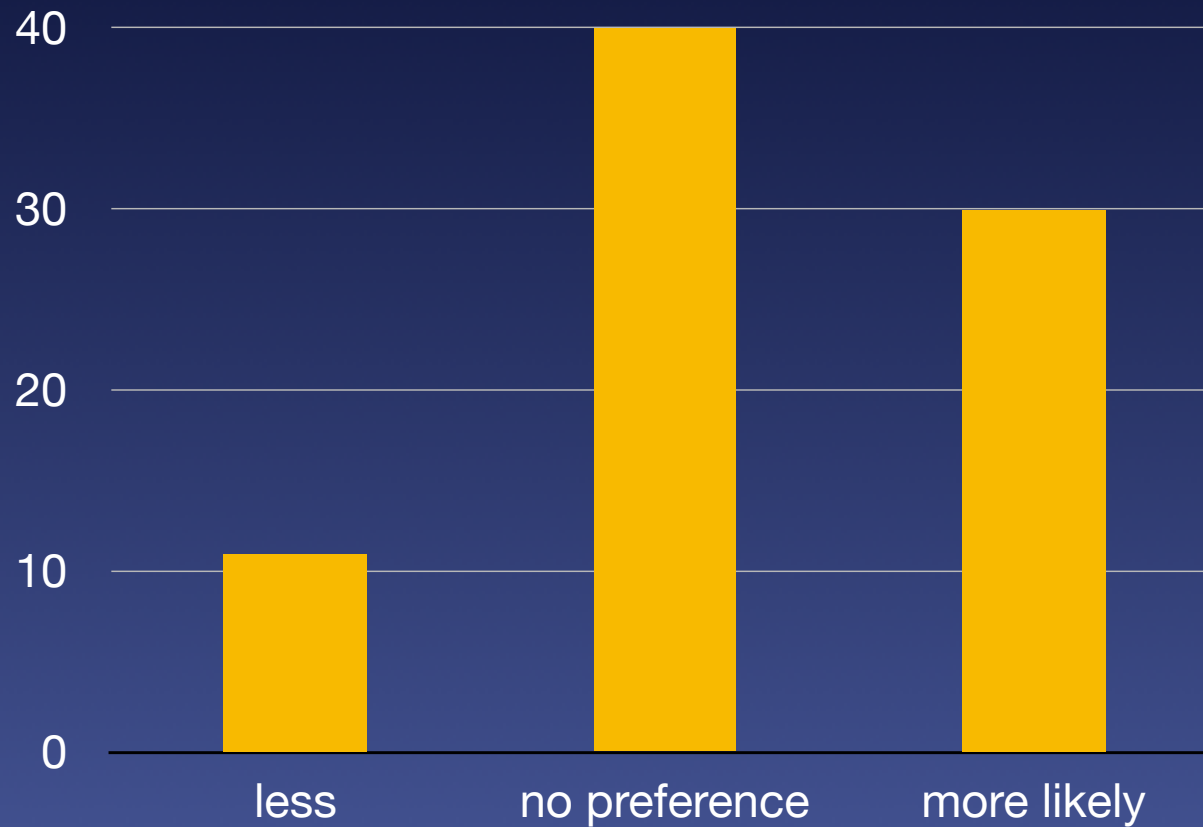
zoom

Peer Review Survey Responses



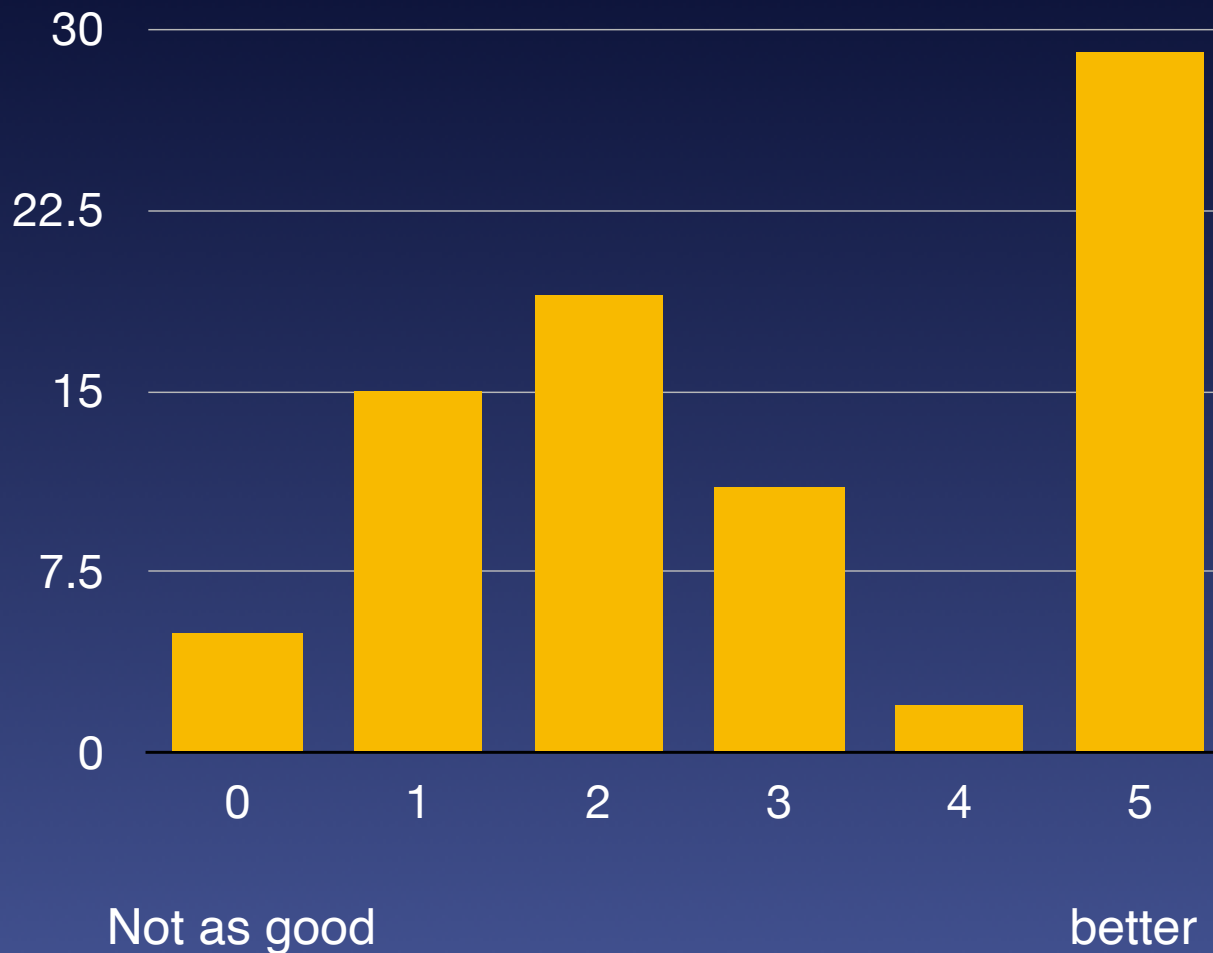
Do you prefer an in-person peer review or remote peer review?

Peer Review Survey Responses



Would a remote peer review make you more or less likely to accept an invitation?

Peer Review Survey Responses



If you participated in a previous Chandra review, how would you rate the remote experience compared to the in-person experience?

CUC October 14 2020

What was new in Cycle 22

Changes to facilitate thermal management of the spacecraft and a stable long term schedule:

Resource Costs

Review-wide limit on High Ecliptic Latitude (HEL) time (> 55 degrees)

Elimination of Observing Preferences

Changes to TOO response times and follow-ups

Extra 4Ms of non-HEL time

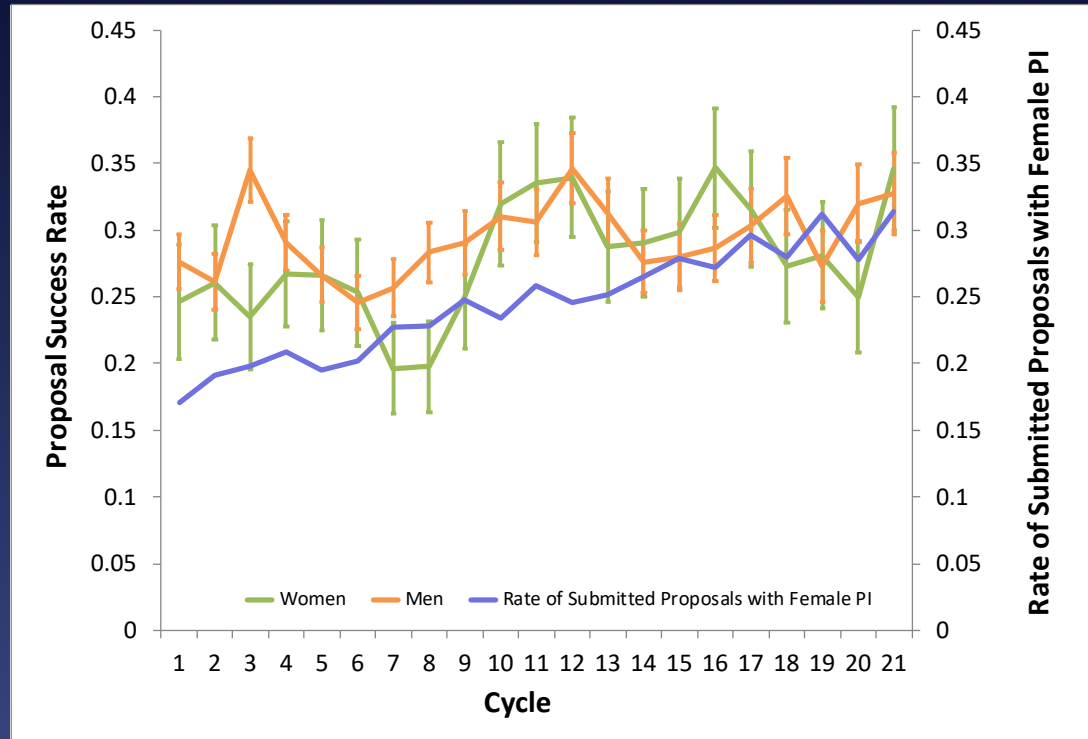
Some topical panels allocated RC budget before they reached their exposure time allocation: concern that RC would result in highly ranked programs cut.

After balancing post-review, no targets were cut due to RC.

Four targets (totaling 476 ks) cut or not approved due to HEL limits

Seven Fast TOOs programs not approved

Dual-Anonymous Proposal Review (DAPR)



Acceptance rates for males and females statistically indistinguishable in recent years. We do see trends for senior women to do less well than senior male peers, in common with other observatories. Assumption is that these trends are due to implicit bias.

Chandra DAPR for Cycle 23

With a view to mitigating these gender biases - and other possible biases - Paul Hertz, Director SMD Astrophysics Division, has instructed all NASA missions to transition to DAPR.

Proposals are distributed to reviewers without names or identifying information. The names are revealed after the final rankings.

Proposals are written so as to avoid revealing the identity of the team.

Levelers are present in all panel rooms. Their job is to refocus the conversation on to science, and, if necessary stop the discussion.

Software is being updated to deal with DAPR.

Identifying personal conflicts and finding enough levelers for each panel are the big challenges.

Cycle 23 will be remote

There will be no reviewer travel for Cycle 23.

If health conditions allow CXC staff may work from offices.

Format likely to be similar to Cycle 22: short discussion days, zoom/Slack etc.

We are looking closely at the schedule: with no reviewer travel there is no compelling reason for panels to be held at the same time, allowing for a longer timeline - but not too long so that discussion of VLPs and LPs is still fresh for panel chairs.

Summary

Remote Peer Review went well, generally positive feedback.

SAO now institutional member of SDSS-V

Chandra Frontiers in Time-Domain Science: virtual workshop is ongoing. Transient working group to form from workshop insights

Cycle 23 to be DAPR and remote for reviewers (no travel)

Pat Slane appointed CXC director: welcomed into CDO on Sept 28.