

## **Chandra Users Committee Meeting Report May 23, 2024**

### **Meeting Summary**

This was a two-hour remote meeting attended by all CUC members. Besides an update from Rudy Montez from the Director's Office (CDO) on the Chandra Legacy Program (CLP) and Cycle 26 proposal statistics and peer review, most of the meeting was dedicated to a summary from Pat Slane on the Operating Paradigm Change Review (OPCR), which recently occurred and will decide how Chandra will be operated going forward in FY25.

The CDO reported that the number of proposals submitted to Cycle 26 is steady compared to last year. They received 406 proposals requesting 61 Msec of time for an oversubscription of 4.9. The amount of time available for this and the next cycle has been reduced by 2 Msec each because of the CLP. In addition to the 4 Msec of GO time, 1 Ms of DDT time and 1 Msec of GTO time from Cycles 26 and 27 were contributed to the CLP to bring the total to 6 Msec. A call for CLP white papers resulted in 22 white papers requesting 96 Msec of observations or an oversubscription of 16. The white paper review resulted in two initiatives, and a call for proposals for those initiatives was issued. Two proposals, one for each initiative, were recommended by the two topical review panels.

In light of the budget crises faced by the CXC, the CUC did not discuss prior recommendations from previous CUC meetings since these may no longer be relevant.

CXC Director Pat Slane described the current budget issues to the CUC, which resulted in the CXC cutting 30% of the GO grants and several other savings across the CXC. The budget for FY25 and in the future, presented in the President's Budget from March 2024, remains very uncertain and hinges upon the outcome of the OPCR review. The CXC submitted to the OPCR 4 options: 1) closeout of the mission, 2) a minimally operating mission, without a GO program, focused only on Time-Domain And Multi-Messenger (TDAMM), synergy with existing missions, and a legacy program, 3) the same as option two but with an additional GO program, and 4) maintaining operations as-is. Options 2 and 3 would result in a 50% reduction in observing efficiency compared to current levels. Option 2 is above but close to the presidential budget in FY 2025 but would exceed the projected budget considerably in FY 2026.

The OPCR report is anticipated to be made publicly available by NASA over the summer.

### **Other Business**

As we conclude this CUC meeting, it's important to acknowledge the significant contributions of four outgoing CUC members - Chris Fryer, Anjali Gupta, Brian Williams, and Kristin Madsen who has served as the recent Chair - along with continuing member Dave Pooley who will step into the role as the CUC Chair.