

## Summary of SSC meeting Waimea, February 20, 21 2008

SSC Co-Chairs: J. P. Brodie and B.T. Soifer

SSC Members: R. Akeson, A. Filippenko, T. Green, M. Liu, C. Martin, X. Prochaska. L. Hillenbrand attended by videolink.

Ex-officio: M. Bolte and S. Kulkarni, Observatory Directors.  
J. Nelson, Project Scientist.

- K1 LGS passed its PDR on Jan 17, 2008 with unanimous and enthusiastic agreement. The current schedule has OSIRIS moving to Keck I in 2010A with the possibility of 2009B (shared risk).
- AO operations have been extended to 15 minutes prior/after 12 degree twilight, provided the telescope points away from the Sun.
- Keck recorded 303 refereed publications in 2007, an increase of 50 over the previous record from 2006. Keck also boasts the highest percentage (>50%) of moderate to extreme impact papers among ground based observatories.
- The SSC will soon invite short white papers to be submitted from members of the Caltech/UC communities proposing enhancements to current facility instruments or new facility instruments. It is expected that 1 or 2 concept studies will be funded at the \$50-\$100K level to support development of detailed designs.
- The Next-Generation Adaptive Optics (NGAO) system, which is the next major instrumentation project for Keck, will be completing its System Design Phase in April 2008. Project completion is expected around 2014, and it is anticipated that significant funding will come from private donations.
- Overall, all ongoing instrumentation projects (MAGIQ, MOSFIRE, NIRES, and LRIS-R upgrade) are progressing well. None of these instrument projects have significant cost overruns, and the SSC is pleased with their progress.
- The MAGIQ guider upgrade is proceeding. The guider for the first instrument to be upgraded, NIRSPEC, is almost complete. LRIS-R is scheduled to be upgraded in March 2009.
- The multi-object near-IR spectrograph MOSFIRE is planned to have first light in October 2009.
- The SSC is convening a Keck Scientific Strategic Planning retreat to prepare for the Decadal Review and update the Keck Strategic Plan. This meeting will take place in late summer / early fall and will include the SSC and invitees with

particular functional responsibilities. This group will prepare a draft Strategic Plan for presentation to the community who will be invited to provide input to a final document.

- The SSC believes it is important to remind participants in the Decadal Review, of the importance of Keck to the astronomical system. This awareness should aid in obtaining the needed federal support to keep Keck Observatory at the forefront of astronomical research.