Meeting of the AAAC Survey sub-group

October 9, 2015

Attending: Priscilla Cushman, Todd Hoeksema, James Lowenthal, Ted von Hippel

1. Timeline for the Survey?

The initial plan was to have a final report to the mid-decadal review by March based on starting the survey during the summer. This is now unrealistic, though we may be able to complete the survey and have initial survey results by March.

2. Develop/discuss initial list of questions

We identified five categories of questions and assigned group members (listed) to draft the first round of these questions. These categories and individuals are

a. How do agency funding activities affect you? (Prisca)

b. Improving the statistics and follow-on to results from the von Hippel & von Hippel survey (Ted)

c. Acquire a better understanding of the effects of repeat proposals, paying particular attention to Jim Ulvestad’s questions. (Ted)

d. Demographics of work environment for astronomy vs. planetary science vs. heliophysics (Prisca)

e. Effect on field of low funding rates? Are people really leaving the field? Or the US? Are large research groups disintegrating? (Ted)

3. Prioritizing questions and refine the list

Waiting for sufficient progress on item 2.

4. Adding Survey Expertise

The AAS is willing to support the cost of hiring an outside company to conduct and (analyze?) the survey, pending a meritorious (VG/E) proposal by our group to the AAS. This route provides us with significant additional resources, but writing the proposal, hiring the company, and their work will take time.

Courtney von Hippel, an organizational psychologist and coauthor of the vH & vH paper, may be willing to contribute her time and expertise to this project, particularly if it appears that it will deliver publishable data. Ted will discuss this with her.

5. Target Publishing Venue

Currently unknown. We will have additional feedback after Nov 12 when Prisca meets with the AAAC.

6. Tasks & Next Steps

a. Finish the initial draft of questions by 10/31

b. next telecon in two weeks: Friday, Oct 23 @ 12:40pm CT / 1:40pm ET