

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Office of the Administrator  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



May 25, 2012

Dr. Steven W. Squyres  
Chairman  
NASA Advisory Council  
Washington, DC 20546

*STEVE*  
Dear Dr. Squyres:

Enclosed is NASA's response to a recommendation from the NASA Advisory Council meeting held on March 8-9, 2012, at NASA Headquarters. Please do not hesitate to contact me if the Council would like further background on the response. I appreciate the Council's thoughtful consideration leading to the recommendations and welcome its continued findings, recommendations, and advice concerning the U.S. civil space program.

I look forward to working closely with you and members of the Council in the future.

Sincerely,

Charles F. Bolden, Jr.  
Administrator

Enclosure:

2012-01-04 (HEOC-04) Creation of a Subcommittee to NASA Advisory Council

*WHILE I AM IN  
BASIC ASSESSMENT, STEVE,  
I WOULD HAVE HOPED THAT  
OUR HGO AND COMM AND OVERSEER  
COMMITTEES COULD HAVE FOUND A WAY  
TO COLLABORATE IN SELECTING THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE. PERHAPS THIS IS  
ACTUALLY THE BENEFIT OF THIS NEW  
THE SUBCOMMITTEE, BUT IT  
ISN'T OBVIOUS IF THIS IS  
THE CASE.*

## **NASA Advisory Council Recommendation**

### **Creation of Subcommittee to NASA Advisory Council 2012-01-04 (HEOC-04)**

#### **Recommendation:**

The Council recommends the creation of a subcommittee of the Human Exploration and Operations (HEO) Committee that advises NASA on the research and educational needs that are required to support a plan for the long-range human exploration of space. The subcommittee should include a breadth of perspectives that encompass research and higher educational needs, not representation of specific disciplines.

#### **Major Reasons for the Recommendation:**

Efficient, coordinated and cost-effective advancement toward long-range spaceflight requires effective advance planning of an integrated research program that addresses both the physical and life sciences. A group of individuals who understand the Space Life and Physical Sciences Research programs would provide the strategic guidance that is required to achieve these goals, and would build strong supportive links with the academic and research communities that will be required to support these goals.

#### **Consequences of No Action on the Recommendation:**

NASA and the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate (HEOMD) will lack the relationships with the academic community that are necessary to assure effective coordination of research with mission goals, and engagement with the educational community that shapes the scientists of tomorrow.

#### **NASA Response:**

NASA concurs with this recommendation. NASA recognizes the need to effectively involve research and academic communities in building long-range plans for the human exploration of space. NASA understands the importance of having a foundation in higher education to realize the goals of space exploration and to connect NASA's missions with societal objectives of technological innovation, engineering excellence, and scientific discovery.

HEOMD will work with the proposed subcommittee chair, Dr. David Longnecker, and the incoming director of the Space Life and Physical Sciences Research and Applications Division, Dr. Marshall Porterfield, to identify strong candidates for the subcommittee. Ideal candidates will have a breadth of perspective that will enable them to think creatively about an effective relationship between human spaceflight and the academic community, rather than advocate for a specific research area. HEOMD plans to have the membership approved by Summer 2012. The subcommittee may have a working meeting in early Fall 2012, in order to present plans for future activities at the Fall/Winter 2012 HEO committee meeting.