

# CHANCO meeting 11/6/2014 minutes

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Place: PUC Campus San Joaquín, 15:15

Present: M. Schreiber (chair), E. Costa, D. Mardones, F. Bauer, A. Reisenegger (co-chair, minutes)

Skype: N. Nagar

## Discussion and decisions

As established in the *Proposal for Chilean Participation in ALMA* of May 31, 2011, agreed on by the Directors of the Astronomy Program of CONICYT and the Department of Astronomy of Universidad de Chile, the CHANCO is charged with periodically re-evaluating the Chilean participation in ALMA, particularly after cycle 2. This was the task of the present meeting. As input information, we had the very detailed and valuable report provided by the CRC Chair, Andrés Jordán, and the 17 responses to the poll to the Chilean astronomical community organized by the CHANCO itself. These documents are provided together with these Minutes.

On the basis of this input information, our general recommendation is to continue participating in the international TAC for another 3 cycles, as favored by the vast majority of the poll respondents, but incorporating the improvements discussed below. Given the small size of the Chilean community of ALMA users, the alternative of Chilean TAC would imply that people evaluate proposals of direct competitors, making an unbiased evaluation very difficult.

We suggest the following improvements to the process:

1. With each ALMA Call for Proposals, a Chilean addendum must be published, clearly establishing the special rules applying to Chilean proposals. This addendum should be available online and linked from the general ALMA Call for Proposals. It should include the *Proposal for Chilean participation in ALMA* mentioned above and any additional rules or amendments established afterwards.
2. The CRC should be authorized and requested to reject any proposal submitted as Chilean, but for which all CRC members not participating in it agree that it is obviously non-Chilean. Such proposals would not be part of the Chilean time, but would be considered for the International Time.
3. We consider it important to maintain and enforce the rule that proposals with non-permanent astronomy researchers (graduate students, postdocs, and visitors) must have at least one Chilean faculty member as co-I in order to be considered as a Chilean proposal.

4. In order to help the CRC assess whether a given proposal should be considered as Chilean, it should be requested from all PIs of Chilean proposals to submit the following information:
  - a. A work plan detailing role of each team member, with emphasis on Chilean members.
  - b. A report on previous ALMA use by the PI and its resulting publications. (As part of the assessment of whether a proposal is Chilean should be based on the expectation that any Chilean PI should have a leading role in publications resulting from her/his previously allocated ALMA time.)

If possible, this information should be requested as part of ALMA proposal pdf file (in that case, beyond the ALMA page number limit), otherwise as a separate document to be sent to CRC.

5. ALMA should publish the abstracts, ALMA receiver bands, and estimated observing time of all approved proposals.
6. Chilean proposals in each science category must be evenly distributed among panels.
7. JAO should provide statistics on proposals received, triaged, approved, for each executive (NA, EU, EA, CL), as well as a monthly up-to-date observation log.
8. JAO should provide a detailed report on the execution of all approved proposals, in order to check that Chilean proposals got observed without bias and the 10% share was actually all used.
9. CRC should circulate a detailed report to the community, as done for cycle 2 (especially sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 of the latter report), including any relevant statistics not provided by JAO.
10. We consider it very positive that the CRC Chair, Andrés Jordán, was invited to participate in the DDT Program Committee, together with representatives of the other 3 Executives. It should be made sure that Chile remains represented in this way in this important committee.
11. Based on suggestions received in the general poll just done, the CHANCO will again poll the Chilean astronomical community about the convenience of reserving Chilean time for large programs (requiring a substantial number of hours within one given Cycle), and how much. In any case, any such programs should be required to submit detailed reports on their results and benefits for the Chilean community, including periodic progress reports if they were multi-cycle proposals. We expect to be able to report on the results of this poll within 10 days.
12. Before the ALMA observatory starts accepting proposals for long-term programs, Chile should evaluate whether we want to impose special criteria. We should generate a user community consensus and the CHANCO can lead that effort.
13. ALMA should be requested to implement a general rule that, in case of duplicate proposals, precedence should be given to the proposal most likely to be observed first, given its ranking within the executive it belongs to (NA, EU, EA, CL). (This appears to have been implemented in the end in cycle 2, but only after a substantial discussion within the APRC.)

14. It is important to maintain our previously proposed rule that the triage process should leave enough Chilean proposals to be discussed by the panels so that their total time request is at least twice the total time available for Chilean proposals.
15. The names of Chilean members of ALMA Board, ASAC, AMAC, and ARP should be made public on the SOCHIAS web page. The CHANCO will be open to receive recommendations from the community for such nominations.
16. A person should be hired to do administrative work for CHANCO, at least part-time.
17. The CRC chair should be the contact person for all information related to the handling of Chilean proposals.