

Mary Cleave
Paul Hertz
Richard Fisher
William Wagner

May 19, 2006

Dear Mary, Paul, Dick, and Bill,

Thank you for soliciting advice at the recent NASA subcommittee / science community meeting in College Park. We always appreciate the opportunity to provide input. Unfortunately, our ability to make specific recommendations concerning the Heliophysics R&A budget, as requested by NASA, was affected by uncertainty over the current funding situation. Dick presented a chart indicating that the budget for research and data analysis was declining, while Paul presented a chart indicating that it was growing. Dick's chart is the same one shown by Mary to the Space Studies Board.

The solar physics community, which I represent with this correspondence, would very much like to know the past, present, and proposed future status of NASA funding for Heliophysics R&A. I am referring specifically to the competitive grants programs that fund individual investigators to analyze data, pursue theories, and develop new instrument concepts. I do not include mission operations and data analysis activities other than the competitive guest investigator programs. How much money was spent on these programs in FY04, FY05, and FY06, and how much is slated to be spent in FY07? A program-by-program breakdown would be very much appreciated. It would also be helpful to know the non-competed funds used by mission science teams for data analysis and related theory (i.e., activities other than mission operations and data processing).

I presume that this is a small request, since the information must be extremely important for NASA planning purposes and therefore readily available. A response in time for the June 25 meeting of the Solar Physics Division of the AAS would be especially useful, since that will be an ideal opportunity for the community to provide input to solar members of the HP Subcommittee. Thank you very much in advance.

Best wishes,
Jim Klimchuk
Chair, SPD/AAS