

## **SAGE Terms of Reference**

1. The Science Advisory Group for the EVLA (SAGE) was established by the Director of the NRAO on 15 November 2006.
2. Members shall be appointed by the NRAO Director, in consultation with the Assistant Director for New Mexico Operations and the EVLA Project Scientist. Appointments to the SAGE are for three-year terms. Roughly one-third of the membership will rotate off each year and be replaced by new members. The SAGE shall include representatives from the North American partners on the EVLA and from the broad national and international scientific community.
3. The Chair of the SAGE for the first meeting shall be appointed by the NRAO Director. After that meeting, the Chair shall be elected by the SAGE for one year; re-election shall be permitted. The Chair or another representative from the SAGE also shall participate on the more generally focused EVLA Advisory Committee.
4. The EVLA Project Scientist will organize SAGE meetings in conjunction with the SAGE Chair and the Assistant Director for NM Operations. Formally, the Assistant Director for NM Ops is not a member of SAGE, but will participate in the meetings; the EVLA Project Scientist will be a voting member of SAGE.
5. The SAGE will advise NRAO during the completion of EVLA Construction, and will continue to advise them on user priorities during the first few years of EVLA Operations. SAGE shall have the following primary mandates:
  - a. Advise the NRAO Director and the Assistant Director for NM Operations on science priorities for the EVLA, with emphasis on the capabilities available to the users of the telescope. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
    - i. Definition and implementation of the first scientific user observing modes.
    - ii. Definition and implementation of “first science” programs on the EVLA.
    - iii. Priority ranking of any possible descopes to the EVLA Project.
  - b. As appropriate, participate in the initial development and testing of scientific user capabilities on the EVLA.
  - c. Provide a conduit between the NRAO and the North American science community, and inform home institutions about the status and progress of the EVLA scientific development and user capabilities.
  - d. Carry out other tasks that may be requested by NRAO.
6. There should be at least one face-to-face SAGE meeting per year, and at least one teleconference between face-to-face meetings. The NRAO Director may place a specific charge on each meeting of the SAGE. After each meeting, the SAGE shall make a written report to the NRAO Director, including any conclusions or recommendations reached by the SAGE. Where the SAGE makes specific recommendations to the NRAO Director, the NRAO Director shall accept, modify, or reject such recommendations and convey a Response via a written reply to the Group.
7. The SAGE shall agree on its own Rules of Procedure, and shall seek to reach conclusions by consensus. Dissenting opinions to written recommendations in reports shall be clearly indicated.