

SAP Long Range Planning Exercise

Background, Process, Outlook

Ken Ragan
Chair, LRPC

Town-hall meeting
McGill, December 5/6, 2005

Background:

- SAP long range planning process is carried out periodically under the aegis of NSERC
- Previous exercise dates from 2001
- Although NSERC sponsored, it is not NSERC driven – desire is to be *community- and science-driven*
- NSERC charge to committee nonetheless establishes some ground rules and suggested scenarios

- Charge to LRP Committee (see www.phys.smu.ca/lrp for full text and other documents of interest) is to
 - “...prepare a forward look for subatomic physics in Canada covering the period until 2016...”
- Three funding scenarios explicitly mentioned:
 - Status quo: flat funding for GSC 19
 - Growth scenario: doubling of GSC’s envelope over 10 years
 - Atrophy scenario: loss of 20% of GSC’s envelope over 10 years
- Also asked to consider as necessary the interplay between NSERC and other ‘players’ in Canadian SAP:
 - eg. TRIUMF, CFI, MSIP, Perimeter

- LRP Committee struck by NSERC:

- Sampa Bhadra, York
- Malcolm Butler, St. Mary's
- Jens Dilling, TRIUMF
- Steve Godfrey, Carleton
- Chris Hearty, IPP/UBC
- Garth Huber, Regina
- Rob McPherson, IPP/Victoria
- Tony Noble, Queen's
- Ken Ragan (chair), McGill
- Carl Svensson, Guelph

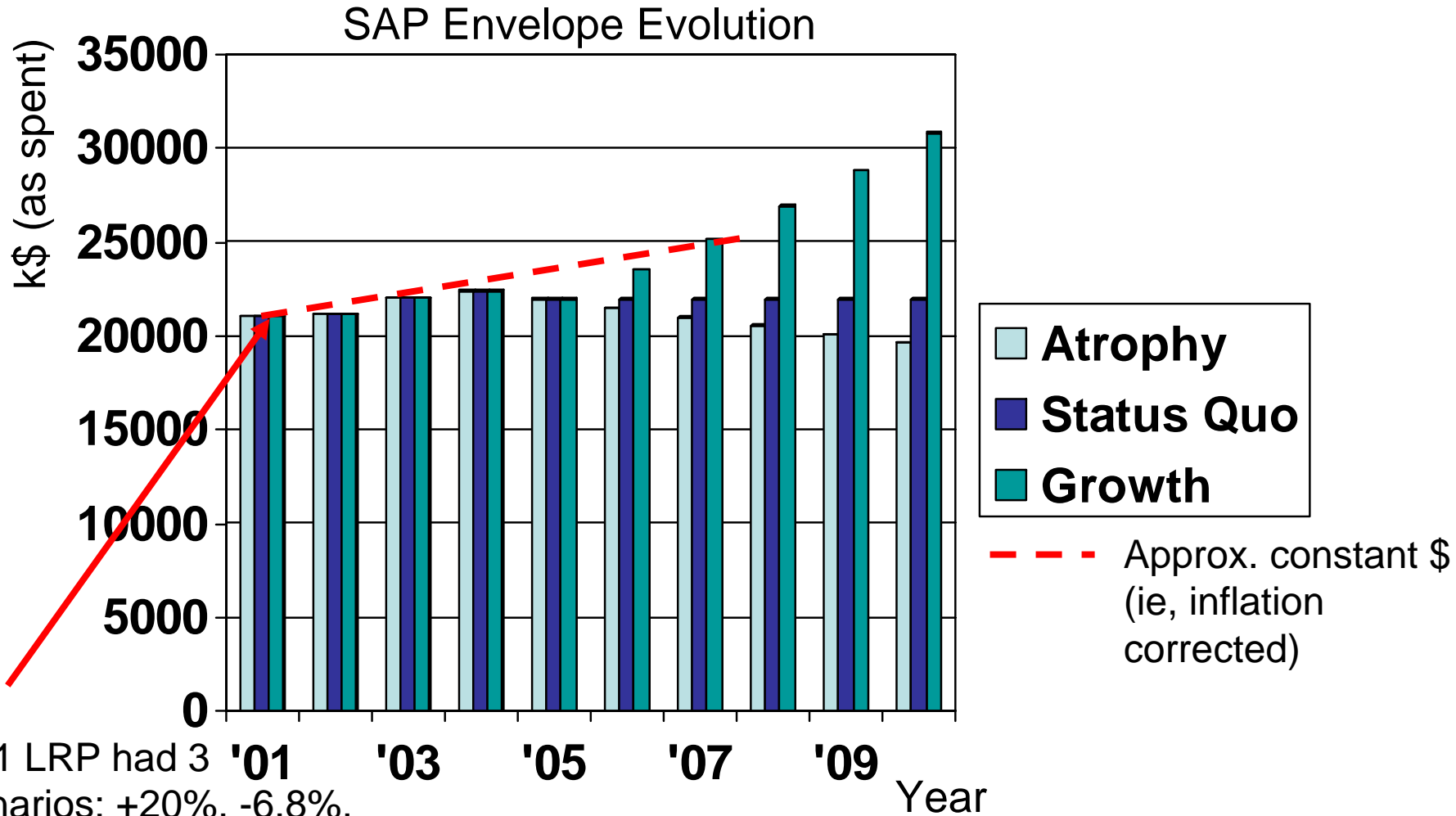
covers all areas present in SAP/GSC19: theory, nuclear, particle, astroparticle

- Aply aided by NSERC personnel:

- Isabelle Blain, Normand Marcotte, Sandra Zohar, Samir Boughaba

- LRP committee has invited the following individuals to join us ex-officio for their insight on organizations important to SAP in Canada:
 - Rob Myers, Perimeter Institute
 - Jean-Michel Poutissou, TRIUMF
 - William Trischuk, IPP Director
 - Kate Wilson, CFI
 - Dave Sinclair, SNOLab

Interesting to look at recent evolution of SAP envelope to frame the three scenarios:



2001 LRP had 3 scenarios: +20%, -6.8%, or “unconstrained”

Town Hall, 2005/12/05

In the current five-year plan, we have seen modest envelope growth but:

- NSERC's budget has increased by ~50%; our GSC's envelope has increased by ~5%
- there are ~ 65 new people in our community (out of a total of ~250-300 [?])
- envelope has not increased even as fast as inflation

Process & timeline proposed by LRPC:

- Ongoing: Consultation within sub-communities
 - » Theory – ad-hoc committee (Steve Godfrey, Malcolm Butler)
 - » Particle Physics – IPP (William Trischuk)
 - » Nuclear Physics – DNP (Garth Huber)
 - » Underground Physics – ad-hoc committee (Tony Noble)
 - » High Performance Computing – ad-hoc committee (Mike Vetterli)
- Nov. 15: Reports to LRPC by subcommunities *and all other interested parties*
- Dec. 5/6: **Community-wide Town Hall meeting in Montreal**
- Early Jan. '06: Committee meets to establish report
- Late Jan. '06: Initial (short-term) report to GSC
- Spring '06: Final report

- LRP committee met to discuss general approach to process & report
- Strong consensus around table that community is in a far different mood than during last LRP in 2001:
 - Science is in exemplary situation: ISAC, ATLAS are strong and moving to completion and full operation, and SNO has exceeded all expectations
 - Faculty renewal has been strong (through regular renewal & CRCs)
 - NSERC budget increases and reallocation successes have led to modest increases to envelope
 - CFI monies have made an impact
 - Federal government has (had?) a science policy, a Science Advisor and there is active discussion of a Major Science Investment Process (MSIP)

- This community has perhaps never seen a more auspicious time to argue the case for vision and aggressive growth;
- Case must be based on scientific vision, *but* we should not feel hamstrung by past disappointments or constraints
- The case must be made by *us*; it will not be made by NSERC nor by the federal government

→ THINK BIG !!

- What is LRP interplay with other factors in Canada?
 - TRIUMF 5-year plan has just started; planning on next 5-year plan will start soon
 - SNO Lab will start operation in next few years
 - Reallocation process at NSERC is dead; somewhat mysterious how any new NSERC monies will be partitioned
 - MSIP is under discussion; may see the light of day in next year
 - Potential for LARGE capital investment: >> \$100 M
 - CFI's future is uncertain but its presence has dramatically altered the landscape already

- LRP process is a golden opportunity to continue lobbying efforts to improve (our) science in Canada
- LRPC envisages *two* reports:
 - Detailed document to community and GSC, including some short-term guidance
 - A much shorter, flashier, more widely-aimed and more promotional document, aimed at:
 - The public
 - Politicians and lobbyists
 - Funding agencies (eg NSERC Council)
 - University administrators
 - Your own colleagues

What is goal of this meeting?

- Try to find a consensus of what our major efforts should be over next 5 years;
- Sketch out major scientific directions & projects that could/will form core of program in first half of next decade;
- Challenge will be to *be visionary* while applying *realism*:
 - Is our vision within the community's capabilities ?
 - What resources – financial, manpower, technical – will be necessary, and are the latter two available?

Conclusions:

- The LRP effort is well underway with well-identified charge, people, process, and timeline
- Briefs submitted for this Town Hall represent a tremendous effort and a very solid start
- The overall climate has never been more positive for our science
- NSERC has offered us a magnificent opportunity to show the excitement of our science and our vision of our place in it
- It is up to us to use this process to our advantage