ToO Submission

ToO requests should be submitted to observers on duty (copy Prof. Gregory Herczeg, gherczeg1@gmail.com). Whenever possible, submit requests before 3:00 p.m. Pacific Time. To minimize disruption, ToOs should normally require no more than one hour in total.

ToO duration = science exposure + telescope slews + calibrations (+ other operational overhead).

ToO requests should generally be granted. The principal exception is when the team controlling that half-night is already observing a high-priority transient target.

Operational responsibility

If one team is observing when another team requests a ToO, the observing teams should decide who will execute it. In some cases, it may be most efficient for the current observers to remain on the telescope and carry out the ToO. If the two teams cannot agree, the default will be the team who triggers ToO to take over observations.

Time compensation

ToO during the first half of the night.

The team whose observations are interrupted will receive an extension during that same half-night equal to the ToO's total duration, plus 15 minutes for each ToO. The additional 15 minutes compensates for operational overhead and the structure of nightly observing.

ToO during the second half of the night.

The interrupted team will receive equivalent time on a subsequent night of comparable observing quality: the ToO's total duration plus 15 minutes per ToO. Time lost on a good night should not be compensated with time on a night of substantially poorer weather. Adjustments for dark versus bright time will be considered in future semesters.

Hard ToOs.

A "hard ToO" is one that requires terminating an ongoing long observation before its

planned completion. The interrupted team will be compensated for: the exposure time already spent on the interrupted observation; the ToO duration; and an additional 30 minutes.

For example, if Team B triggers a one-hour hard ToO while Team A is 45 minutes into a planned two-hour observation, Team B owes Team A:

- 1 hr for the ToO time +
- 30 min for the hard ToO +
- 45 min of the time already spent on the target.

This structure intentionally makes an immediate interruption substantially more costly than waiting for the current observation to finish.