LSST Dark Energy Science Collaboration
Builder Status Policy

Contents

December 2023 (v1.2)

DESC Builder Status Policy

DESC Builder status definition

"DESC Builder status" is a recognition given by the LSST DESC to those members who have made significant contributions to building the collaboration, both its community and its simulation and analysis pipeline and infrastructure software. According to the publication authorship rights defined in the LSST DESC Publication Policy:

"DESC Builders can join the list of authors of all Key Papers; they can also join the list of authors of any Standard Papers enabled by their contributions. DESC Full Members can join the list of authors of any Key or Standard Papers to which they made significant contributions."

See the Publication Policy for definitions of Key Papers and Standard Papers.

DESC Builder policy

The policy defining the criteria by which DESC Full Members can become Builders is as follows.

- **Principle:** DESC Builder status is a lifetime recognition of extensive contributions to our collaboration that enable a wide array of DESC papers[1].

- **Eligibility:** Full Members who have made significant contributions to DESC building work (defined below) are eligible. The contributions should (i) typically total to at least 2000 work hours, and (ii) be considered significant enough and broad enough to already entitle the nominee to authorship on most DESC Key Papers.

- **Implementation:** The Membership Committee will evaluate nominations (including self-nominations) in consultation with the Working Group co-conveners and, as needed, relevant coordinators. Upon assessment of each Builder status nomination, the Membership Committee will decide if the requirements for eligibility have been met. If they have, Builder status will be granted. If they have not, the Membership Committee will provide feedback to the nominee on how to achieve eligibility with a timetable for reconsideration. Individuals who receive a negative decision from the Membership Committee may appeal the decision to the Collaboration Council, which will set up an internal ad hoc committee to make a final decision. Calls for nominations will be advertised semi-annually, although nominations will be welcome at any point throughout the year. New DESC Builders will be announced to the collaboration by e-mail and at collaboration meetings, with summaries of the contributions made by each Builder.

- **Authorship:** DESC Builders can join the list of authors of all Key Papers; they can also join the list of authors of any Standard Papers enabled by their contributions. Announcements of Key Papers and Standard papers will be sent by e-mail to the collaboration; DESC Builders will be invited to request authorship.

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[1] A simple way to view this is that allowing DESC Builders to join the list of authors of all DESC Key Papers should not represent a major change in standard authorship practice.

Detailed requirements

1. **Definition of building work**

   The DESC Builders are the people who built the DESC software and the DESC community.Building work encompasses work on DESC infrastructure, software, hardware, operations, management, and community service, and is defined as essentially anything that builds or maintains our collaboration. Examples of building tasks that could contribute to Builder status include contributions to: the development of DESC-specific software and related research notes (Core Cosmology Library, PhoSim upgrades for DESC, etc.), infrastructure work to enable Data Challenges, construction of collaboration-wide pipelines (e.g., fake object injection pipeline), crafting amendments to the governance plan, writing key collaboration planning documents (such as DESC Science Roadmap or Science Requirements Document), committee service time, fundraising, hosting meetings, training and acting as ombudsperson or meeting contact person, lecturing or giving tutorials at collaboration meetings, participating in internal review, and so on. It is the responsibility of the Working Group conveners (in consultation with DESC Management and Leadership) to help identify tasks that can count towards Builder status and communicate this information to their working group via the group's confluence page. Building tasks can also be self-reported and the Membership Committee will consult with the committee chair and Collaboration Council if any query arises.

2. **Time contribution**

   The suggested minimum of 2000 work hours can be achieved over several years.

3. **Right to revoke**

   While DESC Builder status is a lifetime recognition, DESC Management has the right to revoke a Builder's status and its associated privileges based on (1) violations of the DESC Code of Conduct or (2) sanction or censure by another collaboration, an institution, or professional society for activity that constitutes a violation of a code of conduct.

Recognition of Rubin Observatory Builders

Rubin Observatory Builders who are Full Members of the DESC are welcome to be nominated or to self-nominate for DESC Builder status. The same criteria as for any other Full Member of DESC will apply.

Additional information & timeline

This policy is the result of discussions between the members of the "Membership Review and Builder Status (MRBS) policy committee", whose members are: Elisa Chisari (chair), Eric Gawiser, Eric Aubourg, Phil Marshall, Andy Connolly, Andrei Nomerotski, Michael Strauss and Joe Zuntz.

The committee started discussions in the summer of 2016 when preparing a set of initial guidelines about Builder status to help the collaboration think through the advisory vote on the Publication Policy.

The committee met in person at the SLAC DESC meeting in February 2017, leading to a slightly more detailed proposed policy that is consistent with the initial guidelines.A summary document was produced which was presented to the Collaboration Council for discussion in March 2017. The CC gave feedback and requested that the discussion be opened to the collaboration.

The MRBS committee produced a second summary document and a feedback form that were presented to the CC and the spokesperson team in June 2017. After some feedback, these were made available to the collaboration in June 2017 for feedback via e-mail & Slack.

The committee met in person at the Stony Brook University DESC meeting in July 2017, and received comments from DESC colleagues at an open town hall. After this iteration, further comments were provided by the collaboration in January 2018. Those comments, and the replies to the form, have been considered

and incorporated in this document. Further comments were given by the CC in March 2018 before the final vote.

In May 2019, the Policy was amended to clarify the Implementation of Builder Status and to change the term "award" as this term may have particular connotations unrelated to the Builder Status criteria. Later, in July 2019, the reference to "full-time effort" was removed to avoid potential confusion.

Version History

- Dec 2023 (v1.2): Detailed requirements updated to note DESC Management retaining the right to revoke Builder status under certain conditions.