Deciding if a SETAC Workshop should be a Pellston Workshop® or a Technical Workshop

SETAC organizes two distinct types or levels of workshop. Pellston Workshops® are the premier type of workshop developed by SETAC back in 1977 (actually 2 years before SETAC was chartered). The term "Pellston Workshop"®, the organizing process, and the workshop format or structure are registered trademarks of SETAC.

Technical workshops on the other hand, while having some characteristics in common with Pellston Workshops®, are less rigorous events, allowing a shorter planning horizon and having other less demanding attributes, making them easier to organize and carry out, although typically less impactful. Following is a list of the primary characteristics of each workshop type along with commentary to help you, as a potential proponent, decide which one better suits the nature of the scientific topic and the resources to conduct a workshop to appropriately address it.

It is also worth noting that there are various "flavors" of technical workshops, depending on the degree of involvement of SETAC (and its members) in arranging and conducting the workshop. In short, a Type 1 workshop is solely organized and carried out by SETAC, a Type 2 workshop entails a co-organizer or co-organizers, and a Type 3 workshop is one where SETAC endorses the workshop being organized by another organization and may or may not have a representative on the steering committee of the workshop.

Criteria	Pellston Workshop®	Technical Workshop
Topical Importance	Critical and urgent	Important but not critical
Impact Potential	Potential science paradigm shift, possible significant influence on policy development and decision-making, contributing to solution of intractable problems or alleviating major adverse impacts	State-of-the science advancement, knowledge gap identification, stakeholder collaboration promotion
Geographic Scale	Global	Varies, preferably less than global
Governance	Must be led by SETAC[(a)]	Varies, can be another organization
Planning Lead Time	12 to 15 months	6 to 12 months
Cost	$90-130K	$30-50K
Duration	4 to 5 days	1 to 3 days
Participants	40 to 50 typical	25 to 60 typical
Review and Approval	Global Science Committee, then SETAC World Council	GU Science Committee, then GU Council or Board
Products	Multiple, Executive Summary, Globe article plus major technical publication (book or journal issue)	Multiple, but more modest, e.g. journal article or issue paper

(a) May have a co-organizer.