

NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD (NSB)**\$4,370,000**
+\$0 / 0.0%

The FY 2016 Budget Request for the National Science Board is \$4.37 million, which is equal to the FY 2015 Estimate of \$4.37 million. The FY 2016 Budget Request will enable the Board to fulfill its policymaking responsibilities for NSF and allow the Board to continue its responsibilities as outlined in the agency's Organic Act, including activities related to the review of major research facilities projects.

National Science Board Funding

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Request ¹	FY 2016 Request Change Over FY 2015 Estimate	
				Amount	Percent
Total, NSB	\$4.25	\$4.37	\$4.37	-	-
Full-Time Equivalentents (FTEs)	19	19	19	-	-

Totals may not add due to rounding.

¹ FY 2016 includes a provisional pay raise of 1.3 percent, as well as anticipated within grade and promotion increases.**Appropriations Language**

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) involved in carrying out section 4 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C 1863) and Public Law 86-209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.), \$4,370,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

**National Science Board
FY 2016 Summary Statement**

(Dollars in Millions)

	Enacted/ Request	Expired	Obligations Actual/ Estimates
FY 2014 Appropriation	\$4.30	-\$0.05	\$4.25
FY 2015 Estimate	4.37		4.37
FY 2016 Request	4.37		4.37
\$ Change from FY 2015 Estimate			-
% Change from FY 2015 Estimate			-

Totals may not add due to rounding.

National Science Board in Context

The National Science Board, established by the NSF Act of 1950, has dual responsibilities to: a) provide national science policy advice to the President and Congress; and b) establish policies for NSF. The Board consists of 24 presidentially-appointed members plus the Director of NSF as an *ex officio* member. Representing the broad U.S. science and engineering (S&E) community, the Board serves collectively as an advisory body on S&E issues critical to the Nation. Board members serve 6-year terms on staggered

appointments and are drawn from industry, academe, non-profit organizations and professional scientific societies representing the breadth of S&E disciplines supported by NSF. They are selected for their eminence in research, education, or public service.

The Board currently meets for five formally scheduled meetings per year, with additional meetings as needed, to review and approve major NSF awards and new programs; oversee and provide policy direction to NSF; and address significant science and engineering related national policy issues. The Board initiates and conducts studies and reports on a range of policy topics and reviews NSF's priorities both to ensure progress and consistency along the strategic direction set for NSF and to ensure balance among new investments and core programs.

Policy Responsibilities

Issues of importance to the science, engineering, and education communities in general and to NSF in particular are often examined by the Board. Topics for exploration are determined through requests from Congress or the President or as identified by the Board in consultation with the science community and NSF management. Recent reports have examined topics such as administrative burdens on researchers, merit review, mid-scale instrumentation, data policies, rising costs, public research universities, science and engineering education, and the U.S. innovation system.

In addition to those special studies, the Board has several standing committees to assist with its responsibilities. The Committee on Audit and Oversight (A&O) provides general supervision for the NSF Inspector General; oversight of major agency administrative processes and principal administrative systems; and review of the agency's internal controls.

The Committee on Strategy and Budget (CSB) focuses on strategic planning and new investments for NSF; analyzes the Foundation's budget to ensure progress and consistency against strategic direction for the Foundation; and identifies strategic, typically long-term, issues that are critical to NSF's future. Within CSB, the Subcommittee on Facilities (SCF) provides guidance and review of NSF-funded research equipment and facilities portfolio, including both Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account-funded and Research and Related Activities (R&RA) account-funded facilities.

The Committee on Education and Human Resources (CEH) focuses on policy direction and advice on major policy issues related to the NSF education, informal science, and training portfolio. It also provides advice on major national policy issues in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, human resource needs and employment, and human resource development for consideration by the Board.

The Committee on Science and Engineering Indicators (SEI) oversees the development, production of, and recommends approval to the Board to release Board's biennial report, *Science and Engineering Indicators*, and other related products; and keeps the Board informed on trends and other data with significant policy implications identified during the production of *Indicators*. The Board's publication of *Science and Engineering Indicators* is a statutory responsibility. Over the past several years, the Board has heightened its efforts to increase the accessibility of *Indicators*, implementing enhancements such as the online *Digest of Key Science and Engineering Indicators* that allow audiences outside the usual community of users to become familiar with the data resources, and to facilitate the use of *Indicators* data in policy decisions and analyses. The 2014 edition of *Indicators* was transmitted to Congress and the President on February 6, 2014. The Board has also developed additional policy statements based on the *Indicators* data to assist policymakers in their deliberations on science and technology issues as well as an

update to the STEM Education Data and Trends web tool which emphasizes and highlights various *Indicators* data points of particular interest to educators and education stakeholders.

The Board is responsible for direct review and approval of the Foundation’s largest awards, and is responsible for the review and approval of MREFC projects at all stages of development, including budget planning, review of proposals and management effectiveness, and approval of awards. The Committee on Programs and Plans (CPP) provides guidance and advice on major policy issues related to the NSF R&RA portfolio, reviews proposals representing a significant expenditure of agency resources, and makes recommendations, as appropriate, to the full Board for its consideration and action. CPP also provides oversight, guidance, and advice on major policy and operational issues related to the NSF polar research portfolio.

The Board’s Executive Committee (EC) consists of the director for NSF, who chairs the Committee, and four elected members from the Board. The Board may delegate to the Executive Committee or to the director for NSF or both, powers and functions granted to the Board by the NSF Act.

Ongoing activities of the Board include review and approval of the following:

- Large awards, MREFC projects, or proposal funding requests and other proposals as needed;
- NSF’s Management Response to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Semi-annual Reports to Congress;
- The NSF, OIG, and the NSB budget submissions to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB);
- The priority order of projects in the MREFC Account;
- Inclusion of new project(s) requiring funding under the MREFC Account; and
- The NSF Strategic Plan.

The Board also receives reviews of the following from NSF:

- Financial management reports for NSF;
- The operation of NSF’s merit review system;
- NSF research infrastructure portfolio; and
- NSF human capital reports.

Office of the National Science Board
Personnel Compensation and Benefits and General Operating Expenses
(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Request ¹	FY 2016 Request Change Over FY 2015 Estimate	
				Amount	Percent
Personnel Compensation Benefits (PC&B)	\$3,038	\$3,126	\$3,126	-	-
Staff Development and Training	34	36	36	-	-
Advisory and Assistance Services	870	721	730	9	1.2%
Travel and Transportation of Persons	229	344	335	-9	-2.6%
Communications, Supplies, and Equipment	77	140	140	-	-
Representation Costs	2	3	3	-	-
Total, NSB	\$4,250	\$4,370	\$4,370	-	-
Full-Time Equivalent	19	19	19	-	-

Totals may not add due to rounding.

¹ FY 2016 PC&B includes a pay raise of 1.3 percent, as well as anticipated within grade and promotion increases.

Personnel Compensation and Benefits

The Board's FY 2016 Budget Request supports a core of full-time policy, administrative, legal, and operations staff. In addition to providing institutional memory for the Board, the Board Office staff provides both the resources and expertise for coordinating and implementing science and education policy analyses and development, broad communication and outreach programs, advice to the Board on legal aspects of its policies and activities, and operational and administrative support that are essential for the Board to fulfill its mission.

Other Operating Expenses

NSB's Advisory and Assistance Services includes the resources needed to produce policy reports to include the Board's *Science and Engineering Indicators*, which is a statutory responsibility. Over the past several years, the Board has heightened its efforts to increase the accessibility of *Indicators*, including the development of companion reports. The 2016 edition of *Indicators* is scheduled for release to Congress in February 2016.

Most of the Board's reports require expert analysis from organizations such as the Science and Technology Policy Institute, a Federally Funded Research and Development Center supported by NSF. Another major expense in the Advisory and Assistance Services line is the development and maintenance of a content management system to search, identify, and retrieve relevant documents for reference and research purposes. This content management system houses substantive Board materials, such as discussions, decisions, and meeting minutes, and will guide our efforts in meeting the requirements of transparency, participation and collaboration as directed by the Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government issued by OMB in 2009. Other costs within the Advisory and Assistance Services line are associated with the Open Government initiative including the webcasting and archiving of all open Board meetings, as well as transcription services, and report printing and dissemination.

NSB's Travel and Transportation of Persons account primarily covers Board member travel costs to NSF headquarters for five meetings, as well as travel for invited speakers and participants in Board activities. The Communications, Supplies, and Equipment line funds the range of electronic purchases, upgrades and installations, such as copiers and computers.

The FY 2016 Request level will facilitate the continued thoughtful enhancement of the Board's media and online outreach efforts that have been successfully used to inform the general public and STEM communities about the Board's activities and the availability of its published reports and other informative materials. Such efforts will continue to expand the community served by the Board on issues and activities relevant to S&E research and education. Further, these enhanced outreach capabilities will incorporate the advice and guidance of media and online communications experts and consultants who will recommend and advise the Board on the best practices for reaching targeted audiences via the press and/or media interactions, as well as online.