

MPS Advisory Committee Meeting
April 6-7, 2006

Questions for the Division Breakout Sessions

1. In its *2020 Vision for the National Science Foundation*, the National Science Board (NSB) makes multiple references to 'transformative' research, including as the first element of its vision that the Foundation will drive the cutting edge of fundamental and transformative research. In addition, the NSB has charged a Task Force on Transformative Research to consider "... new policies that would enhance the ability of ... NSF ... to identify, evaluate, and fund innovative, "transformative" research, defined as research that has the potential to revolutionize an existing discipline through a paradigm shift or create a new one."
 - How would your field identify "transformative" research?
 - How would your field evaluate potentially "transformative" research proposals?
2. There is a set of background materials intended to inform discussions on planning for FY 2008 and beyond. This set includes discussion of four possible overarching initiatives and eight smaller ones. For each of the overarching initiatives and those of the smaller ones where you see extensive division involvement:
 1. How would the initiative contribute to advancing the scientific directions of the division?
 2. How would the division contribute to advancing the ideas laid out in the initiative?
3. What other suggestions for potential initiatives might the division want to put forward?
4. What other challenges and opportunities will the division face in FY 2008 and beyond?

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Questions for “Overarching Initiative” Breakouts

1. What are the strongest arguments for convincing our colleagues in NSF that this MPS-proposed initiative is something NSF must do?
2. Is there sufficient focus to the initiative? If not, what suggestions do you have for improvement?
3. Is there sufficient flexibility to the initiative? If not, what suggestions do you have for improvement?
4. How might we use the “small” initiatives in support of the overarching initiatives?