



# Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee

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Office of Science and Technology Policy

# OSTP History

- Established by Congress in 1976 with a broad mandate to:
  - advise the President and others within the Executive Office of the President on the effects of science and technology on domestic and international affairs.
  - lead interagency efforts to develop and implement sound science and technology policies and budgets,
  - work with the private sector, state and local governments, the science and higher education communities, and other nations toward this end.



# Key Accomplishments 2009-2011

- New responsibilities because of the strong historical and projected role of science, technology, and innovation in economic advancement
- New initiatives – many in partnership with other EOP offices or policy councils – to promote domestic manufacturing, create new job-training partnerships between community colleges and businesses, strengthen STEM education, increase the efficiency of government, and improve access to government data and services
- Key roles in Administration-wide initiatives on energy, Earth observation and environmental monitoring, climate change, regulatory reform, and cybersecurity, among others

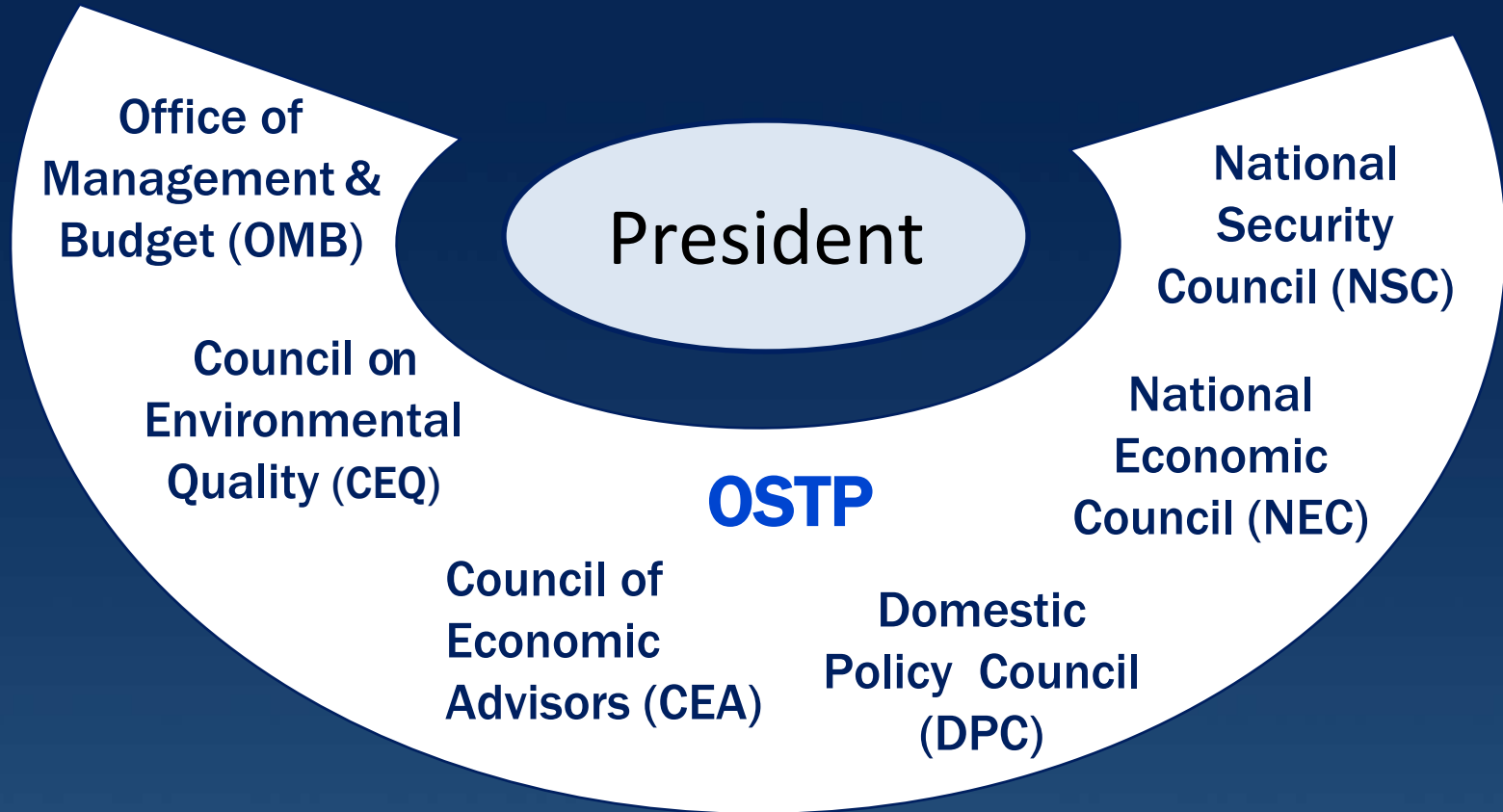


# Priorities

- Economic recovery, growth, and development
- Long-term health of R&D enterprise
- Energy and climate change
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education
- Healthcare
- International engagement and development
- Homeland and national security



# OSTP is in the Executive Office of the President



EOP also includes Offices of: Vice President, Chief of Staff, Cabinet Affairs, Communications, Intergovernmental Relations, Public Engagement, Legal Counsel, US Trade Representative, Energy & Climate Change, and more.



# White House Science and Tech Events

Astronomy Night on the South Lawn, Oct 2009



First-ever White House Science Fair, Oct 2010



Second White House Science Fair, Feb 2012



NSF Career-Life Balance Initiative Launch, Sep 2011



Google Science Fair Winners in Oval, Oct 2011



# OSTP Structure

**Director**  
John P. Holdren

**Deputy Director  
Policy**

**Chief of Staff**

**Assistant Director for  
Legislative Affairs**

**Senior Advisor**

**Assistant Director for  
Communications**

**Associate Director  
Science**

**Principal Assistant  
Director  
Technology & Chief  
Technology Officer**

**Principal Assistant  
Director  
Environment**

**Principal Assistant  
Director  
National Security &  
International Affairs**

**Carl Wieman**

**Tom Power**

**Steve Fetter**

**Arun Seraphin**



# Responsibilities of OSTP

- Policy for science and technology
  - Analysis, recommendations and coordination with other White House offices on R&D budgets and related policy issues, S&T education, scientific integrity, broadband, open government, ...
- Science and technology for policy
  - Independent advise for the President about S&T germane to all policy issues with which he is concerned
- Regulation and rule-making
  - Provide data analysis to OMB and S&T agencies





# OSTP Managed Entities

- **National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)**
  - Deputy secretaries & undersecretaries of cabinet departments with S&T missions, plus heads of NSF, NIH, NASA, NOAA, NIST, EPA, USGS, CDC
  - Nominally chaired by the President; chaired in practice by the OSTP Director / Science Advisor; administered by OSTP
  - Coordinates S&T activities that cross agency boundaries
- **President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST)**
  - Members from academia, industry, NGOs
  - Helps link White House to wider ST&I community



# The President meeting with PCAST and OSTP



# National Science and Technology Council

- Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainability
- Committee on Homeland and National Security
- Committee on Science
- Committee on STEM Education (new)
- Committee on Technology



# Science Division Focus

- **Live Sciences and Biotechnology**
  - BioEconomy Blueprint to harness biological innovations to address national challenges in health, food, energy, and environment. Due in February 2012
- **Physical Sciences and Engineering**
  - Nanotechnology activities and policies
  - Large Instruments & Facilities
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences**
  - A21 Taskforce to reduce burden on university research
- **Prizes and Awards**
- **STEM Education**
  - Inventory
  - Strategic Plan Released with FY013 Budget



# Astronomy and Astrophysics

- Monitor and work with agencies on development of astronomy and astrophysics programs.
- Advise OMB on program priorities and reconciliation of those priorities with budget realities
- Specifics
  - JWST has been an area of recent activity with quarterly reports on project progress.
  - Facilitating interagency cooperation. Joint NSF/DOE LSST briefings, the most recent example.



# Contact Information

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