

MPS Advisory Committee Meeting

February 5, 2016

The meeting began at 12:30 PM. NSF representatives were present in the room (1235 Stafford I). MPS Advisory Committee members participated remotely. See appendix for details. All presentations are available on the [MPS AC website](#).

12:30 PM: Welcome and Approval of Minutes –Fleming Crim, Eduardo Misawa

Dr. Crim served as Chair of the meeting in place of Dr. Juan de Pablo, who participated remotely. Dr. Crim welcomed all to the MPS Advisory Committee Meeting with around-the-room introductions and introduction of the support team. Dr. Misawa provided a briefing explanation that the MPSAC meeting follows the FACA policy. Dr. Misawa also noted that federal employee government rules and ethics apply to committee members during their time serving the MPSAC.

Dr. Crim requested approval of November 2015 MPSAC meeting minutes, and they were unanimously approved.

12:45 PM: State of the Directorate – Fleming Crim

Dr. Crim presented the state of the MPS Directorate, including a science hors d'oeuvre, new personnel, status of the FY 2016 and FY 2017 budgets, update on AST facilities, program updates, and agenda. There was no discussion.

1:45 PM: Briefing on National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) –Emilda Rivers

Dr. Emilda Rivers gave an overview of NCSES programs, activities, and publications. The Special Report titled, “Science and Engineering Indicators 2016” was very well received by the Advisory Committee.

2:15 PM: Graduate student training – Nirmala Kannankutty, Dean Evasius

Dr. Dean Evasius and Dr. Nirmala Kannankutty provided an overview of the Division of Graduate Education, in the Education and Human Resources Directorate. The emphasis was that they are a partner with other divisions. Then Dr. Fleming Crim presented some NCSES data specific to graduate students in MPS-related fields.

3:30 PM: Early career investigators -- Fleming Crim

Dr. Crim asked the MPSAC to think about the following question: Should we be doing something differently in how we launch academics in their career and is it too hard to start a career? He began by showing some data regarding the funding of early career investigators. While the fraction of awards going to “young PIs” (< 7 years since PhD) has gotten smaller since 1985, the fraction of awards going to the 65-75 age bracket has increased. The brought up the issue of how to define “young PIs” since the total career length is longer now.

Dr. Crim asked the advisory committee directly what additional data they would like to see. The committee asked for a longitudinal study that tracked the careers of awardees post-award. The advisory

committee also asked to see the data that was presented replotted with a different metric as a definition for “young.” These additional data should help determine if MPS is really underfunding young people.

4:30PM: NSF Office of Legislative and Public Affairs update -- Amanda Greenwell

Dr. Crim introduced Ms. Amanda Greenwell, the new head of the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs (OLPA) at the National Science Foundation. Ms. Greenwell described her Strategic Communications Plan for OLPA which centers on communicating the mission of the agency, and the importance of that mission, to a broader audience to gain more support for NSF. The mission is: The National Science Foundation is vital because we support basic research and people to create knowledge that transforms our future. This support is a primary driver of the US economy, enhances our nation’s security, and advances our knowledge to sustain global leadership.

Ms. Greenwell summarized the more proactive approach OLPA will be taking that includes building relationships directly with the press, working with professional societies to properly credit NSF, and an expanded budget roll-out agenda with more presentations by the NSF Director for both Congress and other groups.

DRAFT

Attendees:

NSF employees

F. Fleming Crim
Cliff Gabriel
Clark Cooper
Kathy McCloud
Carol Bessel
Tim Patten
Jim Ulvestad
Patricia Knezek
Denise Caldwell
Brad Keister
Jennifer Pearl
Linda Sapochak
Charles Ying
Diana Phan
Matt Viau
Sara Dwyer
Liz Burrows
Stephanie Albin
Christopher Davis
Edward Ajhar
Mark Fiegener
Kelly Phou
Emilda Rivers
Dan Foley
Nimmi Kannankutty
Kelsey Cook
Michael Vogelius*
Wayne Van Citters*

MPS AC members

Juan de Pablo*
Caty Pilachowski*
Bruce Elmegreen*
Melanie Sanford*
Robert Bryant*
George Crabtree*
Phil Bucksbaum*
Jennifer Chayes*
Graham Cooks*

Others

James Murday