

National Science Foundation
Directorate for Biological Sciences

Advisory Committee Meeting
December 19, 2017
Room 3410

Summary Minutes

BIO Advisory Committee Members attending via telephone:

Dr. Stephanie Hampton, Chair	Dr. Susan Gregurick	Dr. Gretchen North
Dr. Lucinda McDade	Dr. Carla Caceres	Dr. Diane Pataki
Dr. Benjamin A. Garcia	Dr. Richard Kuhn	Dr. Dominic Poccia

BIO AC Members not in attendance:

Drs. Susan Barbour and Richard McCombie

Welcome and Introductions – *Dr. Stephanie Hampton, AC Chair*

Dr. Stephanie Hampton, Advisory Committee Chair, convened the meeting at 1:08 PM by welcoming the Advisory Committee (AC) members, National Science Foundation (NSF) staff and guests.

Dr. Hampton reviewed the meeting agenda and introduced Dr. France A. Córdoba, Director, NSF and Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Chief Operating Officer, NSF.

Visit with the Office of the Director – *Dr. France A Córdoba, Director, NSF; Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Chief Operating Officer, NSF*

Dr. Córdoba welcomed the AC members and thanked them for their service to NSF. She also conveyed her appreciation to outgoing Assistant Director of the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) Dr. James L. Olds. She noted that Dr. Olds' tenure as Assistant Director for BIO ends in January 2018 and praised him for the progress made under his leadership, in particular the implementation of the Rules of Life Big Idea into a framework for considering programs within the directorate. Dr. Córdoba presented the concept of the "Ten Big Ideas" to the AC, and provided an update on the statuses of the FY 2018 and FY 2019 budgets, as well as the search for Dr. Olds' successor.

Dr. Ferrini-Mundy updated the AC on the agency-wide Dear Colleague Letter on mid-scale research infrastructure, and indicated that NSF is interested in receiving community feedback.

Dr. Hampton thanked Drs. Córdoba and Ferrini-Mundy for their remarks, and asked for their perspective on how the AC could be most useful to NSF and the scientific community. Dr. Córdoba said the AC should prioritize advising NSF on how to communicate the value of basic research as a reflection of NSF's mission. She indicated that materials for speaking to Congressional staff on

the subject could be found on nsf.gov, and that the materials would also be sent to the AC following the meeting.

Drs. Córdova and Ferrini-Mundy left the meeting at 1:32 PM.

Approval of BIO AC meeting minutes – *Dr. Stephanie Hampton, AC Chair*

The summary minutes from the April 2017 BIO AC meeting were approved at 1:33 PM.

BIO Update – *Dr. James L. Olds, Assistant Director for the Directorate of Biological Sciences*

Dr. Olds requested introductions of senior NSF staff present at the meeting. He provided an overview of BIO directorate activities, including an update on the status of NEON projects, an overview of the Rules of Life Big Idea and the implementation of a no-deadline, full-proposal mechanism for reviewing and reviewing proposals within BIO.

Review of AC Charter, Objectives and Scope – *Dr. Brent Miller, Science Advisor for the Directorate for Biological Sciences*

Dr. Brent Miller, BIO Science Advisor, reviewed the Advisory Committee Charter and the Federal Advisory Committee Act. He provided an overview of AC objectives and scope, and informed the AC that they will attend a short orientation prior to the next AC meeting, tentatively scheduled for next April.

Dr. Hampton informed the committee that representatives from the AC will be required in the near future to participate in two upcoming Committees of Visitors for the Division of Integrative Organismal Systems and for the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences. She also provided an overview of subgroups and subcommittees within the AC, and the AC discussed possible topics for future subcommittees.

Wrap-Up

Dr. Olds thanked the AC for their time, and re-emphasized the importance of its role within BIO.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:41 PM.