

National Science Foundation
Directorate for Biological Sciences

Advisory Committee Meeting
November 16, 2018
Room 3410

Summary Minutes

BIO Advisory Committee Members attending via teleconference:

Dr. Barbara Beltz, Chair
Dr. Suzanne Barbour
Dr. Jeannine Cavender-Bares
Dr. Susan Gregurick
Dr. Richard Kuhn
Dr. Lucinda McDade
Dr. Gretchen North
Dr. Diane Pataki

BIO AC Members not in attendance:

Dr. Carla Caceres
Dr. Ben Garcia
Dr. Dominic Poccia

Welcome and Introductions – *Dr. Barbara Beltz, Acting AC Chair*

Dr. Barbara Beltz, Advisory Committee Chair, convened the meeting at 2:33 PM by welcoming the Advisory Committee (AC) members, National Science Foundation (NSF) staff and guests.

Dr. Beltz reviewed the meeting agenda and statement of purpose, and the AC members introduced themselves, as did members of BIO's senior staff who were in attendance.

Meeting Background and Purpose – *Dr. Joanne Tornow, Acting Assistant Director for the Biological Sciences*

Dr. Tornow welcomed the AC members and thanked them for their service to NSF. She provided the AC with background on the changes to BIO's proposal submission policies for FY 2019 and referenced the subsequent announcement of the removal of proposal submission restrictions on PIs/co-PIs for FY 2019. She indicated that the purpose of this meeting was to establish a BIO AC subcommittee to continue to monitor the impacts of BIO's no-deadline policy on the quality of the proposal review process. Dr. Tornow identified Dr. Beltz as the BIO AC liaison and Dr. Nancy Sung as the NSF liaison to this subcommittee.

Discussion of Draft Charge to the Subcommittee and Subcommittee Membership

Dr. Beltz provided a brief description of the draft charge, which was provided in full to AC members before the meeting. This charge includes developing metrics with which to assess any impact of the change to no-deadline proposal submission on the merit review process and the number and quality of proposals submitted. She also described the current size and scope of the subcommittee membership and requested suggestions from AC members on stakeholder groups to be represented on the subcommittee.

A motion to form the subcommittee was approved unanimously at 2:56 PM.

Dr. Jeannine Cavender-Bares, Dr. Suzanne Barbour and Dr. Lucinda McDade suggested stakeholder groups that should be considered for representation on the subcommittee, including primarily undergraduate institutions, Long-Term Ecological Research site researchers, National Ecological Observatory Network users, minority-serving institutions, professional societies and early career researchers.

Dr. Cavender-Bares commended NSF for their “nimble” response to community concerns and asked that the record show that members of her research community request the return of the Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant.

Wrap-up

Dr. Tornow announced that Dr. Carla Caceres is the new BIO AC chair, effective January 2019. She thanked former AC Chair Dr. Dominic Poccia and the current meeting’s chair Dr. Beltz for their service.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:07 PM.