

APPENDIX: DIVERSITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST REPORT

I. The 2014 ECCS COV Meeting & Committee Membership

The Committee of Visitors (COV) met on September 15th and 16th, 2014 to review programs in the Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems Division (ECCS) in the Directorate for Engineering. The COV Committee was composed 14 members from the scientific community chosen for their breadth expertise and experience in fields associated with ECCS. The 14 COV members composed a diverse committee with respect to geographic, institutional, gender, ethnicity, age, private and government sector, and scientific representation. The specific composition of the COV Committee membership can be found below:

- ***Geographic & Demographic Representation***

Geographic Region:

- Northeast (3)
- Southeast (3)
- Southwest (2)
- West (2)
- Midwest (3)
- Northwest (1)

Industry/Government (2): DARPA (Government), IBM (Private Industry)

Institution Types:

- 4 Private Educational Institutions
- 8 Public Educational Institutions
- 1 Government Agency
- 1 Private Industry

Demographics: Approximately 40% female, 60% male. COV members represented diversity in age and heritage.

- ***Programmatic Representation***

With exception to one member, all members currently conduct or have conducted research in those disciplines, fields, or activities that are effected by ECCS awards/outcomes and are representatives of the ECCS programs under review. The one member not specifically related to ECCS related research is primarily representative of the overall impact of ECCS awards/outcomes on funding for engineering faculty and student research.

II. Conflict of Interest Management

COV Members were briefed prior to, as well as at the start of, the meeting on issues of Conflict of Interest (COI). COI briefings are critical as COV review actions include the reading of proposals, reviews, and award recommendations (or proposal declinations) as well as commenting on the management of proposal actions.

Each COV member completed, signed and returned an NSF Conflicts of Interest form prior to viewing any ECCS proposal action. Known conflicts of interest (such as those involving the home institutions of COV members) as well as reported conflicts of interest by COV members were entered into the Electronic Jacket Committee of Visitors system prior to the start of proposal review. Other conflicts of interest were entered as they became known over the course of the review. Entering these conflicts of interest prevented COV members from electronically accessing proposals with which they were conflicted.

It is also important to note that none of the COV members had proposals pending in the ECCS Division at the time of review.

The ECCS Division Director, Science Analyst, and ENG COV Monitor (as COV COI officer) were available at all times prior to and during the COV meeting to answer questions and resolve issues regarding conflicts of interest.