

**NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD****\$3,910,000**

The National Science Foundation Appropriations Act of 2002 provided for a separate appropriation line item for the National Science Board (NSB, the Board) beginning in FY 2003. Accordingly, this FY 2007 NSB Budget Request identifies the resources needed to support the Board, including amounts for personnel compensation and benefits, authorized travel, employment of experts and consultants, and other appropriate expenses. The NSB request is \$3.91 million, a decrease of \$40,000 over the FY 2006 Current Plan. The FY 2007 Budget Request will continue to enable the NSB to fulfill its policy-making and oversight responsibilities for the NSF and provide independent advice to the President and the Congress on significant national policy issues in science and engineering (S&E) research and education.

**National Science Board Funding**

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	Change over	
	Actual	Current Plan	Request	FY 2006 Amount	Percent
Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$1.46	\$1.62	\$1.70	\$0.08	4.9%
Other Operating Expenses	2.19	2.33	2.21	-0.12	-5.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3.65</b>	<b>\$3.95</b>	<b>\$3.91</b>	<b>-\$0.04</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>
Full-Time Equivalent Employees	12	13	14	1	7.7%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Appropriation Language**

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) involved in carrying out section 4 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1863) and Public Law 86-209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.), ~~\$4,000,000~~**\$3,910,000**: Provided, That not more than \$9,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses. (*Science Appropriations Act, 2006.*)

**National Science Board  
Budgetary Resources Summary**

(Dollars in Millions)

Fiscal Year	Enacted/ Request	Rescission	Total		Obligations Incurred/Estimated
			Budgetary Resources	Lapsed	
FY 2005 Actual	4.00	-0.03	3.97	-0.32	3.65
FY 2006 Current Plan	4.00	-0.05	3.95	-	3.95
FY 2007 Request	3.91	-	3.91	-	3.91
\$ Change from FY 2006	-\$0.09		-\$0.04		-\$0.04
% Change from FY 2006	-2.3%		-1.0%		-1.0%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Adjustments to Base**

Within the Office of the National Science Board FY 2005 appropriation a total unobligated balance of \$320,000 lapsed, due to unexpected delays in NSB-sponsored activities and in hiring of NSB staff.

### **Background on the National Science Board**

As an independent Federal agency, NSF does not fall under any cabinet department; rather NSF's activities are guided by the NSB. The NSB was established by the Congress both to serve as an independent national science policy body, and to oversee and guide the activities of the NSF. It has dual responsibilities to: a) provide national science policy advice to the President and the Congress; and b) establish policies for the NSF. The NSB has 24 Members appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. NSB Members, who serve six-year terms in intermittent appointments, are drawn from industry and universities, and represent a variety of S&E disciplines and geographic areas. They are selected for their preeminence in research, education or public service. The NSF Director is also a full voting member (*ex officio*) of the Board.

In recent years, the NSB has met six times a year to review and approve major NSF awards and new programs, oversee and provide policy direction to NSF, and deal with significant science and engineering related national policy issues. It initiates and conducts studies and reports on a broad range of policy topics, and publishes occasional policy papers or statements on issues of importance to U.S. science and engineering. The Board analyzes NSF's budget to ensure progress and consistency along the strategic direction set for NSF and to ensure balance between initiatives and core programs. It also identifies issues that are critical to NSF's future, and approves NSF's strategic budget directions and the annual budget submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

### **National Science Board Activities**

Because it is required to establish the Foundation's policies within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress, the NSB supports the strategic Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) goals of the Foundation, including those identified in the President's Management Agenda (PMA). The Board conducts continuous assessment of the quality, relevance and performance of the Foundation's award making, as called for in the Research and Development Investment Criteria of the PMA. The Board has received reports from the chairs of the Foundation's Advisory Committee on GPRA Performance Assessment, and reviews and approves the summary results of the Foundation's annual GPRA performance goals and the updates of the NSF Strategic Plan. The NSF Director's report on Merit Review is presented to the Board each year, allowing the NSB to monitor the quality and effectiveness of this keystone Foundation process.

The NSB issues policy guidance in the form of official statements and resolutions dealing with topics such as the Foundation's merit review criteria, cost sharing with universities, science and engineering education, the science and technology workforce, and funding and oversight of major research infrastructure projects. The Board is also responsible for direct review and approval of the largest Foundation awards, and is responsible for the review and approval of major research infrastructure projects at all stages of development, including budget planning, review of proposals and management effectiveness, and approval of awards.

Much of the work of the Board is accomplished in committees, which make recommendations to the full Board for approval. The standing Committee on Audit and Oversight oversees the operations of the Foundation's Office of Inspector General (OIG), as well as NSF compliance with new procedures for financial accountability and information technology security. The members of the Committee on Programs and Plans (CPP) review proposals for major awards, the health of the Foundation's peer review system, and program performance and accountability. The Board monitors the critical infrastructure that supports research in Antarctica through the CPP Subcommittee on Polar Issues.

The Board established a Committee on Strategy and Budget (CSB) in 2001 to focus on strategic planning and budget initiatives for NSF. Review of the Foundation's Budget Request is also vested in CSB. The Committee on Education and Human Resources (EHR) focuses on Foundation activities in such priority areas as S&E workforce development, math and science education, and underrepresented populations and regions in S&E programs. The EHR Subcommittee on S&E Indicators manages the process for development and review of the Board's biennial statistical report, *S&E Indicators*.

During the last year, the Board accomplished a great deal in terms of its mission to provide oversight and policy direction to the Foundation, including: reviewed and endorsed the OIG Semi-annual Reports to Congress and approved NSF management responses; approved the NSF FY 2006 Budget Request for transmittal to OMB; approved the Foundation's annual Merit Review Report; provided review and decisions on eight major awards or proposal funding requests; approved a new process for the development, review, approval and prioritization of large facility projects by NSF, and reprioritized NSB-approved but not-yet-funded Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account projects. At the request of Congress, the Board has undertaken to develop and establish a new vision for the National Science Foundation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Board delivered the *2020 Vision for the National Science Foundation* (NSB-05-142) to Congress in mid January 2006. It also completed the assessment of the NSF Merit Review System and the *Report of the National Science Board on the National Science Foundation's Merit Review System* was delivered to Congress in early October 2005; and oversaw the full implementation of its report on *Setting Priorities for Large Research Facilities Projects Supported by NSF*.

In terms of advice to the President and the Congress, the Board published the *Broadening Participation in Science and Engineering Faculty* (NSB-04-41) report, and *Setting Priorities for Large Research Facility Projects Supported by the National Science Foundation* (NSB-05-77); approved *Long-Lived Digital Data Collections: Enabling Research and Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (NSB-05-40) report, provided testimony to Congressional Hearings; interacted with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in meetings and forums on S&E issues; and responded to specific questions and inquiries from Senators and Representatives. Board meetings and deliberations have also become much more open in accord with the Government in the Sunshine Act, as directed by the NSF Act of 2002. The NSB continued to improve its outreach and communications with the Congress, other agencies, various interest groups and the outside S&E research and education community. During the FY 2006, the Board will have initiated examinations of major issues related to Engineering Education, possible improvements to, and impact of, the biennial *Science & Engineering Indicators* report, and a study of the role of the federal government in supporting international partnerships in science. At the request of Congress, and in accord with Board discussions at its 2005 Retreat, the Board will also be establishing a Commission on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education in Science, Mathematics and Technology to formulate a national strategy for developing and implementing a bold new approach for addressing the problems and opportunities of U.S. K-12 education in sciences, mathematics, engineering and technology, including its interconnections with undergraduate education in these fields and in K-12 education.

### **National Science Board FY 2007 Budget Request**

The Board's Budget Request for FY 2007 seeks resources to carry out its statutory authority and to strengthen the Board's oversight responsibilities for the Foundation. Enhanced Board responsibilities established in the NSF Authorization Act of 2002 and directed by Congressional Report language include: an expanding role in prioritizing and approving MREFC projects; new requirements for meetings open to the public; and responsibilities for reporting on the Foundation's budgetary and programmatic expansion, with specific focus on the projected impact on the science and technology (S&T) workforce, research infrastructure, size and duration of grants, and under-represented populations and regions.

Effective communications and interactions with our constituencies contribute to the Board's work of identifying priority S&T policy issues, and developing policy advice and recommendations to the President and Congress. To this end, the Board will continue to increase communication and outreach with the university, industry and the broader S&E research and education community, Congress, Federal S&T agencies, and the public. The Board's activities will aim to support U.S. global leadership in discovery and innovation based on a continually expanding and evolving S&T enterprise in this country, and will ensure a principal role for NSF programs in providing a critical foundation for S&E research and education.

Among other activities in FY 2007, the Board expects to complete its study of NSF identification, development, review and funding of transformative research, and provide new guidance for NSF policies regarding such research. It will also provide national policy recommendations following completion of the work of its Commission on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education in Science, Mathematics and Technology. While many of these recommendations will be at a national system level, a number will also focus specifically on the role NSF can and should play in supporting the development of an adequate and diverse S&E workforce for the future. The Board's examination of university level engineering education will also be completed and recommendations provided in FY 2007. The NSB International Task Force expects to complete its examination of the role of the U.S. Government in international science and engineering in response to the changes that have occurred in recent years to the global dynamics for science and engineering (S&E) research, education, politics, and workforce. The Board will continue to review and approve NSF's actions for creating major NSF programs and funding large projects. It is also expected that the Board will be reviewing a new NSF Strategic Plan that is expected to be developed to address the Board's 2020 Vision for NSF.

Essential to the conduct of Board business is a small and independent, yet adequate, core of full-time senior policy, clerical and operations staff, supplemented by short-term temporary contractual support as needed for various NSB endeavors. This core of NSB support is augmented by the Foundation as it continues to provide accounting, logistical and other necessary resources in support of the NSB and its missions. In addition to the NSBO's essential and independent resources and capabilities, external advisory and assistance services are especially critical to support production of NSB reports and supplement the NSB staff's general research and administration services to the Board. These external services provide the Board and its Office with the flexibility to respond independently, accurately and quickly to requests from Congress and the President, and to address issues raised by the Board itself.

By statute, the Board is authorized five professional positions and other clerical staff as necessary. In consultation with the Congress, the Board has defined these five professional positions as NSB senior S&E policy staff, and the clerical positions as NSB staff that support Board operations and related activities associated with the conduct of its meetings and oversight responsibilities. In August 2003, the NSB Chair charged the new NSB Executive Officer, who reports directly to the NSB Chair and also serves as the Director of the NSB Office (NSBO), with identifying options for broadening the NSBO staff

capabilities to better support the broad mission of the NSB. The NSBO staff provides both the independent resources and capabilities for coordinating and implementing S&E policy analyses and development, and the operational support that are essential for the Board to fulfill its mission.

The full impact of increasing the number of professional positions to the statutory level, along with necessary clerical and support staff, is expected to occur in FY 2007, with increased attention to addressing new skill requirements. Nevertheless, the results of a strategic restructuring of Board Office management and operations over the last two years (since implementation of the changes incumbent in

the December 2002 NSF Re-Authorization Act), has led to more efficient use of appropriated resources while retaining the ability to support an active Board agenda. More efficient operations, in combination with a completion of Board Office equipment upgrades in FY 2006, has positioned the Board to propose an FY 2007 budget that represents a reduction of \$40,000, or -1.0 percent, over the FY 2006 Current Plan.

**Personnel Compensation and Benefits and General Operating Expenses**

(Dollars in Thousands)

**National Science Board Funding**

	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	Change over	
	Actual	Current Plan	Request	FY 2006 Amount	FY 2006 Percent
Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$1,460	\$1,620	\$1,700	\$80	4.9%
Other Operating Expenses	992	971	801	-170	-17.5%
Advisory and Assistance Services	1,490	1,350	1,400	50	3.7%
Representation Costs	8	9	9	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,950</b>	<b>\$3,950</b>	<b>\$3,910</b>	<b>-\$40</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>

Totals may not add due to rounding.

