



September 3, 2015

Subject: Diversity and Conflict-of-Interest Report for the Division of Astronomical Sciences FY 2015 Committee of Visitors

To: Assistant Director, MPS

The Division of Astronomical Sciences held its quadrennial COV on 17-19 December 2014. The COV comprised 15 members of the research and education community in astronomy and astrophysics sub-disciplines supported through the Division's programs. These individuals were chosen for their scientific expertise and their breadth of understanding of issues impacting research and education in astronomy and astrophysics. Collectively, the COV membership represented a variety of perspectives and was balanced across the various sub-disciplines in the field. Inclusiveness in the COV membership is illustrated by the committee's geographic, institutional and demographic diversity, as shown below:

Category	Number
<i>Member of MPS Advisory Committee</i>	1
<i>Academic Institutional Type</i>	
Research	6
Comprehensive	4
4-Year	3
Public	8
Private	5
<i>Industry</i>	0
<i>Outside the US</i>	0
<i>Government</i>	0
<i>Federally funded facilities</i>	2
<i>Location</i>	
Northeast	6
East / Mid-Atlantic	4
South / Southeast	3
Midwest	0
Southwest	0
West / Northwest	2
International	0
<i>Female</i>	5
<i>Male</i>	10
<i>Minority</i>	4
<i>No NSF Support in Five Years</i>	8

The COV was briefed on issues of Conflict of Interests for the purpose of one of the COV's statutory responsibilities, namely the reading of proposals, reviews, and recommendations and commenting on the handling of actions and the appropriateness of recommendations. Each COV member completed a NSF Conflict of Interests form. In addition, COV members were instructed to reveal to all other COV members in the breakout sessions all such conflicts or appearances of conflicts as described in the NSF Conflicts of Interest Manual 10. Proposals and files were not available to COV members in those cases where the member had a conflict of interest. Furthermore, the COV members were instructed to leave the room during discussion of such actions.

The Division of Astronomical Sciences believes that the efforts of the COV and the COV Chair, Dr. Lawrence Ramsey, The Pennsylvania State University, were outstanding in all respects. The Division staff detected no situations in which conflicts of interest were not handled properly. The Division was pleased with the quality, professionalism, and thoroughness of the COV report and its findings.