

Date: November 6, 2020

From: Division Director, Division of Chemistry

Subject: Diversity and Conflict-of-Interest Report for the Division of Chemistry FY 2020
Committee of Visitors

To: Assistant Director, MPS

The Division of Chemistry held its quadrennial COV on June 1-3, 2020. The COV was comprised of 44 members of the research and education community in chemistry 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 chemistry. 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
Member of MPS Advisory Committee	1
Academic Institutional Type	
PhD	36
PUI	8
Public	23
Private	14
Industry	3
Government	
FFRDC	3
Federal Agency	1
Location	
East North Central	5
East South Central	4
Middle Atlantic	3
Mountain	3
New England	5
Pacific	10
South Atlantic	3
West North Central	6
West South Central	4
Canada	1
Gender	
Female	18
Male	21
Unknown/Undisclosed	5
Ethnicity	
Hispanic	9
Non-Hispanic	25
Unknown/Undisclosed	10
Race	
Asian	1

Black or African American	4
Native American	3
White	26
Unknown/Undisclosed	10
No NSF Support in Five Years	13

In late April 2020, prior to the meeting of the COV, four duplicate videoconferences were conducted to prepare the COV members for the review process. These meetings were conducted by the then-acting CHE Division Director, Dr. Carol Bessel; the MPS Staff Associate, Dr. Kathy McCloud; and several others from the CHE Division. At these meetings, the COV was briefed on Conflict of Interests (COIs) for the purpose of the COV's statutory responsibilities, namely the reading of proposals, reviews, and recommendations; commenting on the handling of actions; and reviewing the appropriateness of recommendations. Issues of confidentiality were also discussed. Each COV member completed and signed an NSF Confidentiality and Conflict of Interests form. The COI and confidentiality information was repeated in separate, later videoconference briefings conducted in May by each reviewed program and attended by all COV members assigned to the specific program. These later briefings also provided program data and detailed instructions for using relevant COV software.

The COV videoconference meeting began on June 1, 2020, with a welcome and charge by MPS then-Acting Assistant Director Dr. Sean Jones, followed by remarks from new CHE Division Director Dr. David Berkowitz, Deputy Division Director Dr. Bessel, and by COV co-chairs Drs. Peter Dorhout, Malika Jeffries-EL, and Robert (Bob) Cave. These remarks were followed by a short re-briefing on COIs, confidentiality, and Federal Advisory Committee Act rules by Dr. McCloud. At all COI briefings, COV members were instructed to reveal to the CHE COI Conflicts Official (and the members of their subgroups) any conflicts or appearances of conflicts as described in the NSF Conflicts of Interest Manual 10. If subpanels requested additional proposals for review, these proposals were promptly provided following a review for conflicts of interest. Proposals and files were not available to COV members where the member had a conflict of interest. Furthermore, the COV members did not participate in the discussion of actions with which they had conflicts. Because all co-chairs and MPS Liaison Dr. William Tolman had COIs with the Instrumentation program, COV member Dr. George Schatz prepared and presented the relevant section.

The Division of Chemistry believes that the efforts of the COV and the especially the COV co-chairs, Drs. Dorhout, Jeffries-EL, and Cave, 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.