



National Science Foundation
Directorate for Biological Sciences

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 6, 2023

TO: Office of Integrative Activities

FROM: Susan Marqusee, Assistant Director for the Biological Sciences

SUBJECT: Report and Diversity Memo of the 2023 Committee of Visitors for the Division of Environmental Biology

This memo reports on the diversity, independence, balance, and resolution of conflicts of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) in the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO), which was held from 7-9 June 2023 to review the division's work during FY2019-FY2022.

The COV represented a broad segment of the disciplines consistent with the scope of activities for which DEB has oversight responsibilities. Prior to issuing letters of invitation to serve on the COV, the DEB Division Director and Acting Deputy Division Director sought input from DEB Program Directors regarding potential COV candidates and the slate of invitees was approved by Office of the Assistant Director in BIO.

The committee was composed of thirteen members, including one representative of the BIO Advisory Committee. Seven members were female, and two were from an underrepresented minority in the fields of environmental biology. Members currently work in eleven different states (IL, LA, MT, OH, MA, MD, CT, GA, CA, NY, NC) and the District of Columbia. Ten members are from academic institutions, including two Primarily Undergraduate Institutions and four Minority-serving Institutions. One member is from the federal government (DOE), one is from the private sector (museum), and one is from a non-profit scientific organization. Four of the members had not submitted a proposal to the Division in the previous five years. Two of the members had not served on a review panel for the Division in the previous five years, but all thirteen had prior NSF review experience. No members served on the previous 2019 DEB COV. Two members had prior experience as rotators in BIO at varying points, but none were at NSF during the years under review.

Committee members were advised about confidentiality and conflicts of interest both prior to arriving at NSF and on the first day of meeting. All COV members were required to complete the NSF Conflict of Interest form and submit a list of potential conflicts prior to receiving access to COV materials. All identified conflicts were managed in the Electronic Jacket COV module and individual COV members were unable to see conflicted proposals and were absent from any discussion of conflicted proposals.