



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** December 12, 2024  
**To:** Office of Integrative Activities  
**From:** Dr. David B. Berkowitz, Assistant Director, Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences  
**Subject:** Diversity and Conflict of Interest Report for the Division of Mathematical Sciences FY24  
Committee of Visitors

The Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) charged a Committee of Visitors (COV) to review the quality and integrity of the merit review process, program operations, and program-level matters over the four-year period of FY 2020 through FY 2023. The COV met virtually for an organizational meeting on August 7&8, 2024. The full COV met in person at NSF on September 9-11, 2024. In between, subgroups met in Zoom sessions and worked asynchronously. The MPS Advisory Committee accepted the COV's report on October 31, 2024.

The COV was comprised of 43 research community members, representing the various sub-disciplines/techniques supported by the division's programs. These individuals were chosen for their breadth of expertise and experience in fields within DMS's purview. Collectively, the COV membership represented diverse perspectives and was balanced across the various mathematical sciences sub-disciplines. The committee was institutionally, geographically, and demographically diverse (see Table).

Conflict of interest and confidentiality rules were discussed with the COV members before the start of the formal COV meetings. All COV members were required to complete NSF Conflict of Interest Form 1230P and to notify the division of their individual conflicts of interest. All identified conflicts were managed through the Electronic Jacket COV module, which prevented COV members from electronically accessing any proposal with which they were conflicted. COV members were also instructed to leave the room during discussions of any actions with which they had conflicts of interest. The DMS Conflict of Interest official was always available to answer questions and resolve issues during the COV process.

The Division of Mathematical Sciences believes that the efforts of the COV and the COV co-chairs, Dr. Ruth Charney, Brandeis University, and Dr. Irene Fonseca, Carnegie Mellon University, were outstanding in leading the COV as Co-Chairs.

The Division staff checked and 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.

## DMS 2024 Committee of Visitors Diversity Table

Category	Number of COV Members
<b>Members of the MPS Advisory Committee</b>	1
<b>No NSF/DMS Support in the Last 5 Yrs</b>	19
<b>Organization Type</b>	
PhD Granting Institution	31
Primarily Undergraduate Institution	8
Federal Agency	3
Non-Profit/Private Foundation	1
<b>Geographic Location</b>	
New England	6
Middle Atlantic	7
East North Central	6
West North Central	1
South Atlantic	6
East South Central	3
West South Central	2
Mountain	4
Pacific	5
International	3
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	24
Female	19
Did Not Provide	0
<b>Race</b>	
White	34
Asian	2
Black or African American	5
Multi Racial	0
Did not Provide	2
<b>Ethnicity</b>	
Hispanic	6
Not Hispanic	36
Did Not Provide	1