



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
MEMORANDUM

Division of Materials Research

**Date:** October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
**From:** Division Director, Division of Materials Research  
**Subject:** **Diversity and Conflict-of-Interest Report for the Division of Materials Research  
FY2019 Committee of Visitors**  
**To:** Assistant Director, MPS

The Division of Materials research held its COV over the period of September 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The COV comprised 40 members of the research and education community in materials research subdisciplines 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 materials research. 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:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b>
<i>Member of MPS Advisory Committee</i>	1
<i>Academic Institutional Type</i>	
PhD Granting	31
PUI	0
<i>Private Organization</i>	0
<i>Industry</i>	3
<i>Government</i>	6
<i>Foreign</i>	0
<i>Location</i>	
Northeast	5
Mid-Atlantic	8
South Atlantic	7
East South Central	7
West South Central	3
East North Central	4
West North Central	0
Pacific	6
International	0
<i>Female</i>	16
<i>Male</i>	24

<i>Minority</i>	3
<i>No NSF Support in Five Years</i>	15

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 an 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 Materials Research believes that the efforts of the COV and the COV Chair, Dr. Melissa Hines, Cornell 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.