October 18, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

I regret that circumstances force us to cancel the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for November 7 and 8. I am sure that you are aware of the events that have been complicating life for us in the last few weeks. During the one day we have been back at work, we have been working through plans for the next month or so and realize that we would not use your time properly if we held the meeting as scheduled.

The 16-day government shutdown came at a critical time in our preparation for the meeting. The many obligations of restarting our operations after the shutdown are occupying us fully, and we cannot prepare the background materials and make the other arrangements needed for a productive meeting. The entire Foundation is limiting its Advisory Committee meetings until the first of the year as a consequence of the shutdown.

We will defer our face-to-face meeting and the discussions we had planned to one of the next two meetings (currently scheduled for January 22 and April 3-4). I will send you more details as we work out our plans. Like all of NSF, we in MPS are working hard to mitigate the impact of the shutdown. We are preparing a "Dear Colleague Letter" to the MPS community that outlines our plans for recovery, and you should look for that letter in the next few weeks.

I am sorry that we will not get to talk with you in November. The Advisory Committee meetings are very useful for us in MPS, and I am disappointed to miss the opportunities that the November meeting would have provided. I appreciate your work for the Advisory Committee and look forward to our next meeting. I apologize for the inconvenience that our canceling the meeting causes and wish you the best for the fall.

Best regards,

F. Fleming Crim
Assistant Director for Mathematical and Physical Sciences