

MEMORANDUM TO MEMBERS AND CONSULTANTS OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Summary Report of the September 24, 2010 Meeting

The major actions and approvals of the National Science Board (Board, NSB) and a preliminary summary of the proceedings at the Board's September 2010 meeting are provided. This memorandum is also made available for public review. The minutes of the Plenary Open Session for the September 2010 meeting will be posted on the Board's public Web site (<http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/>) following Board approval at the December 2010 meeting.

1. Major Actions and Approvals at the 416th NSB Meeting (not in priority order):

- a. The Board elected Dr. Patricia Galloway to the Executive Committee for the remainder of the 2009-2011 term, which was vacated when Dr. Ray Bowen was elected Chairman in May 2010.
- b. The Board Chairman discharged the *ad hoc* Committee on Nominating for NSB Elections (Elections Committee) with thanks to Dr. Gulari, chairman, and Drs. Peterson and Randall, members.
- c. The Board approved the minutes of the Plenary Executive Closed Session (NSB-10-30) for the May 2010 meeting.

2. Board Chairman's Report

Dr. Ray Bowen, NSB Chairman, noted that the Board is considering locations for next year's off-site meeting and retreat, which will take place September 13-14, 2011. He asked Board Members to give their suggestions to Dr. Michael Van Woert, Executive Officer and Board Office Director. The Board will discuss and select the location of the 2011 off-site meeting and retreat at the December 2010 meeting.

Dr. Bowen announced the release of the Board's latest report entitled, *Preparing the Next Generation of STEM Innovators: Identifying and Developing Our Nation's Human Capital* (NSB-10-33). It was officially released on September 15, 2010 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Dr. Cora Marrett, Acting NSF Director, and Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Acting EHR Assistant Director at NSF, joined Drs. Camilla Benbow and Bowen in the public release briefing. The rollout was a resounding success with a standing-room only audience with over 100 in attendance. The report focuses on the development of the Nation's human capital through the education system. Copies of the STEM Innovators publication are available on the NSB Web site: www.nsf.gov/nsb.

Relating to the topic of innovation, Dr. Bowen mentioned that the NSF Directorate for Engineering is undertaking two new activities to accelerate the process of innovation in its Accelerating Innovation Research (AIR) program. The first will encourage the translation of the numerous, technologically-promising, fundamental discoveries made by NSF researchers, while drawing upon and building the entrepreneurial spirit of the researchers and students. The second activity will foster connections between an existing NSF innovation research alliance whose complementary focus will spur the development of discoveries into innovative technologies through collaboration.

Dr. Bowen announced that during the Plenary Executive Closed Session, Dr. Patricia Galloway was elected to the Executive Committee to fill the remaining 8 months of a 2009-2011-term vacancy, which will expire in May 2011. (See 1.a.) With that, Dr. Bowen discharged the *ad hoc* Committee on Nominating for NSB Elections. (See 1.b.)

Lastly, Dr. Bowen recognized Dr. José-Marie Griffiths, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Bryant University, who was appointed to a 3-year term on the Advisory Board of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). NTIS helps the Department of Commerce promote the Nation's economic growth by providing access to information that stimulates innovation and discovery.

3. NSF Director's Report

Dr. Cora Marrett, Acting NSF Director, reported that NSF received the Evaluation Report from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) on NSF's Human Capital Management. The review identified several concerns about the NSF human capital policies as well as programs and practices, and determined that certain activities had not been implemented. NSF is to respond to OPM within 60 days, by October 4, 2010, regarding plans to address the required actions and the recommendations provided. NSF is on track for responding or meeting that deadline. Input from the Board with Mr. Arthur Reilly coordinating the responses from Board Members will be incorporated into the response. NSF reestablished a positive engagement with OPM, and NSF is especially pleased that that OPM repeatedly expressed desire to partner with NSF to meet the human capital management goals and objectives.

For the congressional update, Dr. Marrett reported that on September 23, 2010 the House Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Research and Science Education held a hearing to examine the current state of science and technology policy research. The hearing looked at how this research informs policymaking, and the role of the Federal Government in fostering academic research and education in this emerging interdisciplinary field. Dr. Julia Lane, Program Director, Science of Science and Innovation Policy, provided testimony for NSF regarding STAR METRICS and the Science of Science Policy program.

On September 29, 2010 the House Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Domestic Policy will hold a hearing entitled "From Molecules to Minds: The Future of Neuroscience Research and Development." Dr. Myron Gutmann, Assistant Director, Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE), will submit testimony on behalf of NSF's efforts in this area.

September 30, 2010 will mark the end of the fiscal year. There was limited action on Appropriations bills in Congress. A Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep agencies operating is expected, and NSF anticipated a CR for funding at the current operating levels until mid-November 2010.

As a reminder, the Senate Committee on Appropriations provided NSF with a 7 percent increase over last year in its version of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which includes NSF's funding for FY 2011. The House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies provided NSF an 8 percent increase in that bill. It was anticipated that Congress will come back after the elections in mid-November 2010 to renew efforts to pass the Appropriations bills.

4. Board Committee Reports

[Note: There were no Board committee meetings held during the September 24, 2010 off-site meeting. Instead, various representatives of South Dakota's academic communities gave presentations.]

[signed]
Michael L. Van Woert
Executive Officer