

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF  
INTEGRATIVE  
ACTIVITIES

October 25, 2000

**TO:** Major Research Instrumentation Committee of Visitors:  
Estela Blaisten-Barojas, George Mason University  
Timothy Dixon, University of Miami  
William Jackson, University of California-Davis  
Edna Kanishero, University of Cincinnati  
William Lord, Iowa State University  
Michael Leuze, Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Cynthia McIntyre, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Robert Megginson, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor  
Howard Nusbaum, University of Chicago  
Dorothy Pumo, Hofstra University  
Jean'ne Shreeve, University of Idaho  
Pao Wang, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**FROM:** Director, OIA

**SUBJECT:** Response to MRI COV report

On behalf of the National Science Foundation, please accept my thanks for your participation on the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Committee of Visitors (COV) in June, 2000. This was the first time that NSF has asked a Committee of Visitors to assess a major crosscutting program such as MRI. Your excellent effort has paved the way for future COV's for similar programs. The report of your findings and recommendations was very well received by the MRI Technical Coordinating Committee and by NSF management. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our progress in addressing the major recommendations of your report.

In late July, we discussed the findings and recommendations of the MRI COV with the MRI Technical Coordinating Committee. The committee agreed to adopt the COV recommendations to encourage more development proposals and to encourage more proposals from non-Ph.D. granting and minority institutions. In August we presented a summary of your findings and recommendations to the Senior Management Integration Group at NSF, a group chaired by the NSF Deputy Director and including all Assistant Directors of research directorates and selected staff office directors. This group concurred with the coordinating committee's recommendations.

To implement the COV recommendations adopted by the committee and by the NSF senior management integration group, NSF made two important changes in the cost sharing requirements in the program guidelines for the FY 2001 MRI competition. As you may recall,

