

NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD (NSB)**\$4,840,000**
+300,000 / 6.6%

The FY 2012 Request for the National Science Board is \$4.84 million, an increase of \$300,000, or 6.6 percent, over the FY 2010 Enacted of \$4.54 million. The FY 2012 Budget Request will enable the Board to fulfill its policy-making responsibilities for NSF. This funding will allow the Board to continue its responsibilities related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, activities in the review of major research facilities projects, and to complete studies on the Foundation's merit review criteria, data policies, mid-scale research, and mid-scale instrumentation.

NSB Funding

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2010		FY 2012 Request	Change over	
	FY 2010 Omnibus Actual	Enacted/ Annualized FY 2011 CR ¹		FY 2010 Enacted Amount	Percent
Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$2.91	\$2.86	\$3.18	\$0.32	11.2%
Other Operating Expenses	1.47	1.68	1.66	-0.02	-1.2%
Total, NSB	\$4.38	\$4.54	\$4.84	\$0.30	6.6%
Full-Time Equivalent Employment	19	17	18	1	5.9%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

¹A full-year 2011 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, this account is operating under a continuing resolution (P.L. 111-242, as amended). The amounts included for 2011 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Appropriation Language

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) involved in carrying out section 4 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1863) and Public Law 86-209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.), \$4,840,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

**National Science Board
FY 2012 Summary Statement**

(Dollars in Millions)

	Enacted/ Request	Rescission	Expired	Total Resources	Obligations Incurred/Est.
FY 2010 Appropriation	\$4.54		-\$0.16	\$4.38	\$4.38
FY 2010 Enacted/Ann. FY 2011 CR	4.54			4.54	4.54
FY 2012 Request	4.84			4.84	4.84
\$ Change from FY 2010 Enacted/Annualized FY 2011 CR					\$0.30
% Change from FY 2010 Enacted/Annualized FY 2011 CR					6.6%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

National Science Board in Context

The Board, established by the NSF Act of 1950, has dual responsibilities to: a) provide national science policy advice to the President and Congress; and b) establish policies for NSF. The Board is composed of 25 presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed members, including the NSF Director, representing the broad U.S. science and engineering community. Board Members, who serve 6-year terms on staggered appointments, are drawn from industry, academe, non-profit organizations and professional scientific societies, and represent the breadth of S&E disciplines supported by NSF. They are selected for their eminence in research, education, or public service.

The Board currently meets five to six times a year to review and approve major NSF awards and new programs, oversee and provide policy direction to NSF, and address significant science and engineering related national policy issues. It initiates and conducts studies and reports on a range of policy topics and reviews NSF's priorities both to ensure progress and consistency along the strategic direction set for NSF and to ensure balance among new investments and core programs.

Policy Responsibilities

Issues of importance to the science, engineering, and education communities in general and to the NSF in particular are often examined by the Board. Topics for exploration are determined through consultation with the science community and NSF management. Recent reports have examined topics such as cost sharing, science and engineering education, and the globalization of science and engineering research.

Currently, the Board is conducting studies critical to the functioning of the agency. These include a task force to examine the agency's merit review process with a focus on the two merit review criteria, Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts. The Board is also developing a report on data policies to determine best practices for data collected through NSF-sponsored research so that they remain available to the broad science, engineering, and education communities. Another area of interest is the support structure for potentially transformative and interdisciplinary mid-scale research. A final report, mandated by the America COMPETES reauthorization, requires the Board to report on mid-scale instrumentation needs of the community. Much of the costs associated with these efforts are for workshops and roundtables to facilitate expert analysis of all aspects of the issues.

In addition to those special studies, the Board has several standing committees to assist with its responsibilities. The Committee on Audit and Oversight provides general supervision for the NSF Inspector General; oversight of major agency administrative processes and principal administrative systems; and review of the agency's GPRA requirements. The Committee on Strategy and Budget (CSB) focuses on strategic planning and new investments for NSF; analyzes the Foundation's budget to ensure progress and consistency against strategic direction for the Foundation; and identifies strategic, typically long term, issues that are critical to NSF's future. The Board recently established within CSB the Subcommittee on Facilities (SCF) to provide increased guidance and review of the NSF-funded research equipment and facilities portfolio, including both Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account-funded and Research and Related Activities (R&RA)-funded facilities.

The Committee on Education and Human Resources (CEH) provides guidance and advice on major policy issues related to the NSF education, informal science, and training portfolio; and reviews proposals representing a significant expenditure of National Science Foundation resources. It also provides advice on major national policy issues in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, human resource needs and employment, and human resource development. The Committee on Science and Engineering Indicators (SEI) offers guidance on content, organization, and presentation of data in the

Board's biennial report, *Science and Engineering Indicators*, and other related products; and keeps the Board informed on trends and other data with significant policy implications identified during the production of *Indicators*.

The Board is responsible for direct review and approval of the Foundation's largest awards, and is responsible for the review and approval of MREFC projects at all stages of development, including budget planning, review of proposals and management effectiveness, and approval of awards. The Committee on Programs and Plans (CPP) provides guidance and advice on major policy issues related to the NSF research and related activities portfolio, reviews proposals representing a significant expenditure of agency resources, and makes informal recommendations, as appropriate, to the Board for its full consideration and action. The Subcommittee on Polar Issues (SOPI), reporting to CPP, provides oversight, guidance, and advice on major policy and operational issues related to the NSF polar research portfolio.

The Board's Executive Committee (EC) is required by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. Section 1865). It consists of the NSF Director, who chairs the Committee, and four other elected members from the Board. Per 42 U.S.C. Section 1863(b), the Board may delegate to the Executive Committee or to the Director or both such of the powers and functions granted to the Board by the NSF Act as it deems appropriate.

The Board expects to continue to be significantly engaged with assisting the agency in its responsibilities stemming from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010.

On-going activities of the Board include reviews of the following:

- NSF's Office of Inspector General (OIG) Semi-annual Reports to Congress and NSF management responses;
- The NSF Budget Submission for transmittal to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB);
- NSF's research infrastructure portfolio;
- NSF's annual Merit Review Report; and
- Large awards, MREFC projects, or proposal funding requests and other proposals as needed.

Staffing

Most of the Board's FY 2012 Budget Request supports a small core of full-time policy, administrative, legal, and operations staff. Over 67 percent of the 2012 request is for Board member and staff salaries and benefits. The Board Office staff provides both the independent resources and capabilities for coordinating and implementing S&E policy analyses and development, and the operational support that is essential for the Board to fulfill its mission. For FY 2012, NSB requests an additional FTE to support policy activities. It is essential that the Board office have the professional personnel available to fully support its efforts. Currently, the seven-member policy staff supports three Task Forces, two Subcommittees, and six full Committees. In addition to the request for an additional policy staff person, the 11 percent increase will also accommodate the return to NSBO of an administrative employee currently on military leave. Finally, the Board Office must also plan for the retirement of two staff members in FY 2012, and our personnel budget must account for the mandated benefits for these employees.

Science and Engineering Indicators

The Board's publication, *Science and Engineering Indicators (SEI)*, is a statutory responsibility. SEI is a biennial publication of the major, high quality quantitative data on the status of U.S. science and engineering. Over the past several years, the Board has heightened its efforts to expand the audience for *Indicators*, implementing enhancements such as the on-line Digest of Key Science and Engineering Indicators that encourage audiences outside the normal community of users to become familiar with the data resources in *Indicators* and to facilitate the use of *Indicators* data in policy decisions and analyses. Release of the 2012 edition of *SEI* to Congress is scheduled for January, 2012.

Electronic Records and Open Government

One of the major functions of the Board Office is to keep the records of Board decisions and policy pronouncements. The records of these decisions, and policy statements and reports on national science and engineering policy issues prepared for the President and Congress, are currently housed in various formats and media. Electronic and paper documents were not easily accessible because they were maintained in inconsistent systems of records. This situation created substantial barriers to requests by interested members of the public, science historians, and NSF staff who wished or needed to understand the underlying process for particular decisions or to obtain original documents relevant to a policy position.

The Board Office is developing an electronic architecture to search, identify, and retrieve relevant documents, in a common format, for use by stakeholders. This electronic records center will house substantive Board materials, such as discussions, decisions, and minutes, and will reduce the administrative cost and effort associated with information retrieval.

Other Costs

Other costs associated with Board activities include website maintenance; transcription services; report printing and dissemination; and logistical support for Board meetings and events. The Board's logistical support provides limited services including: travel planning assistance for invited speakers and participants; mailing of announcements and invitations; local transportation planning, printing, audio-visual and other services for off-site events; and additional meeting support.

National Science Board
Personnel Compensation and Benefits and General Operating Expenses

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2012	Change over	
	Omnibus	Enacted/ Annualized		FY 2010	Enacted
	Actual	FY 2011 CR	Request	Amount	Percent
Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$2,913	\$2,860	\$3,183	\$323	11.3%
Staff Development & Training	31	47	52	5	10.6%
Advisory & Assistance Services	819	980	902	-78	-8.0%
Travel & Transportation of Persons	353	330	360	30	9.1%
Communications, Supplies and Equipment	265	320	340	20	6.3%
Representation Costs	3	3	3	-	N/A
Total, NSB	\$4,384	\$4,540	\$4,840	\$300	6.6%
Full-Time Equivalent	19	17	18	1	5.9%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

