

NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD**\$4,000,000**

The National Science Foundation Appropriations Act of 2002 provided for a separate appropriation line item for the National Science Board (NSB, the Board) beginning in FY 2003. Accordingly, this FY 2006 NSB Budget Request identifies the resources needed to support the Board, including amounts for personnel compensation and benefits, authorized travel, employment of experts and consultants, and other appropriate expenses. The NSB Request is \$4.0 million, an increase of \$30,000 or 0.8 percent over the FY 2005 budget of \$3.97 million. The FY 2006 Budget Request will enable the NSB to fulfill its policy-making and oversight responsibilities for the NSF and provide advice to the President and the Congress on significant national policy issues in science and engineering (S&E) research and education.

National Science Board Funding
(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2005			Change over	
	FY 2004 Actual	Current Plan	FY 2006 Request	FY 2005 Amount	FY 2005 Percent
Personnel Compensation and Benefits	1.13	1.62	1.65	0.03	1.9%
Other Operating Expenses	1.09	2.35	2.35	-	0.0%
Total	\$2.22	\$3.97	\$4.00	0.03	0.8%
Full-Time Equivalent Employees	10	12	13	1	8.3%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

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 (42 U.S.C. 1863) and Public Law 86-209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.), \$4,000,000: Provided, That not more than \$9,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses. (*Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005.*)

National Science Board
FY 2006 Summary Statement
(Dollars in Millions)

Fiscal Year	Enacted/		Total Resources	Lapsed	Obligations
	Request	Rescission			Incurred/Estimated
FY 2004 Appropriation	\$3.90	-0.02	\$3.88	-1.66	\$2.22
FY 2005 Current Plan	\$4.00	-0.03	\$3.97	-	\$3.97
FY 2006 Request	\$4.00	-	\$4.00	-	\$4.00
\$ Change from FY 2005	-		\$0.03		\$0.03
% Change from FY 2005	0.0%		0.8%		0.8%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Adjustments to Base

Within the Office of the National Science Board FY 2004 appropriation a total unobligated balance of \$1.66 million lapsed, due to unexpected delays in NSB-sponsored activities and in hiring of NSB staff.

Background on the National Science Board

As an independent Federal agency, NSF does not fall under any cabinet department; rather NSF's activities are guided by the NSB. The NSB was established by the Congress both to serve as an independent national science policy body, and to oversee and guide the activities of the NSF. It has dual responsibilities to: a) provide national science policy advice to the President and the Congress; and b) establish policies for the NSF. The NSB has 24 Members appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. NSB Members, who serve six-year terms in intermittent appointments, are drawn from industry and universities, and represent a variety of S&E disciplines and geographic areas. They are selected for their preeminence in research, education or public service. The NSF Director is also a full voting member (*ex officio*) of the Board.

In recent years, the NSB has met about six times a year to review and approve major NSF awards and new programs, oversee and provide policy direction to NSF, and deal with significant science and engineering related policy issues. It initiates and conducts studies and reports on a broad range of policy topics, and publishes occasional policy papers or statements on issues of importance to U.S. science and engineering. The Board analyzes NSF's budget to ensure progress and consistency along the strategic direction set for NSF and to ensure balance between initiatives and core programs. It also identifies issues that are critical to NSF's future, and approves NSF's strategic budget directions and the annual budget submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

National Science Board Activities

Because it is required to establish the Foundation's policies within the framework of applicable national policies as set forth by the President and the Congress, the NSB supports the strategic Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) goals of the Foundation, including those identified in the President's Management Agenda (PMA). The Board conducts continuous assessment of the quality, relevance and performance of the Foundation's award making, as called for in the Research and Development Investment Criteria of the PMA. The NSF Director's report on Merit Review is presented to the Board each year, allowing the NSB to monitor the quality and effectiveness of this keystone Foundation process. The Board has received reports from the chairs of the Foundation's Advisory Committee on GPRA Performance Assessment, and reviews and approves the summary results of the Foundation's annual GPRA performance goals and the updates of the NSF Strategic Plan.

The NSB issues policy guidance in the form of official statements and resolutions dealing with topics such as the Foundation's merit review criteria, cost sharing with universities, and funding and oversight of major research infrastructure projects. The Board is also responsible for direct review and approval of the largest Foundation awards, and is responsible for the review and approval of major research infrastructure projects at all stages of development, including budget planning, review of proposals and management effectiveness, and approval of awards.

Much of the work of the Board is accomplished in committees, which make recommendations to the full Board for approval. The standing Committee on Audit and Oversight oversees the operations of the Foundation's Office of Inspector General (OIG), as well as NSF compliance with new procedures for financial accountability and information technology security. The members of the Committee on

Programs and Plans (CPP) review proposals for major awards, the health of the Foundation's peer review system, and program performance and accountability. The Board monitors the critical infrastructure that supports research in Antarctica through the CPP Subcommittee on Polar Issues.

The Board established a Committee on Strategy and Budget (CSB) in 2001 to focus on strategic planning and budget initiatives for NSF. Review of the Foundation's Budget Request is also vested in CSB. The Committee on Education and Human Resources (EHR) focuses on Foundation activities in such priority areas as S&E workforce development, math and science education, and underrepresented populations and regions in S&E programs. The EHR Subcommittee on S&E Indicators manages the process for development and review of the Board's biennial statistical report, *S&E Indicators*.

During the last year, the Board has accomplished a great deal in terms of its mission to provide oversight and policy direction to the Foundation, including: reviewed and endorsed the OIG Semi-annual Reports to Congress and approved NSF management responses; approved the NSF FY 2006 Budget Request for transmittal to OMB; approved the Foundation's Merit Review Report; provided review and decisions on nine major awards or proposal funding requests; developed a broad set of recommendations for allocation of authorized increases in funding resources to the Foundation; and reprioritized NSB-approved but not-yet-funded Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account projects.

In terms of advice to the President and the Congress, the Board published the *S&E Workforce Report* (NSB-03-69); developed and delivered a budget expansion report in accordance with Section 22 of the NSF Act of 2002; prepared, approved and published the 2004 *S&E Indicators Report*; provided testimony to Congressional Hearings; interacted with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in meetings and forums on S&E issues; and responded to specific questions and inquiries from Senators and Representatives. Board meetings and deliberations have also become much more open in accord with the Government in the Sunshine Act, as directed by the NSF Act of 2002. The NSB initiated a major effort to increase and improve its outreach and communications with the Congress, other agencies, various interest groups and the outside S&E research and education community. During the past year the Board also initiated examinations of major issues related to the process by which MREFC proposals are developed, prioritized and funded; NSF policies for Long-lived Data Collections; and NSF policies for the identification, development and funding of transformative, innovative or high-risk research.

National Science Board FY 2006 Budget Request

The Board's Budget Request for FY 2006 seeks resources to carry out its statutory authority and to strengthen the Board's oversight responsibilities for the Foundation. Enhanced Board responsibilities established in the NSF Authorization Act of 2002 and directed by Congressional Report language include: an expanding role in prioritizing and approving MREFC projects; new requirements for meetings open to the public; and responsibilities for reporting on the Foundation's budgetary and programmatic expansion, with specific focus on the projected impact on the science and technology (S&T) workforce, research infrastructure, size and duration of grants, and under-represented populations and regions.

Effective communications and interactions with our constituencies contribute to the Board's work of identifying priority S&T policy issues, and developing policy advice and recommendations to the President and Congress. To this end, the Board will increase communication and outreach with the university, industry and the broader S&E research and education community, Congress, Federal S&T agencies, and the public. These activities will support U.S. global leadership in discovery and innovation based on a continually expanding and evolving S&T enterprise in this country, and will ensure a principal role for NSF programs in providing a critical foundation for S&E research and education.

In FY 2006, the Board will, *inter alia*, expand its ongoing examinations of its role and responsibilities regarding the NSF's MREFC program as it finalizes the development and implementation of a new protocol for the process by which major research equipment and facilities proposals are developed, prioritized, and funded; NSF policies for Long-lived Data Collections; NSF policies regarding the identification, development and funding of transformative or high-risk research; and policies to ensure an adequate and diverse S&E workforce for the future. The Board will continue to review and approve NSF's actions for creating major NSF programs and funding large projects. Special attention will be paid to budget growth impacts on the S&T workforce, broadening participation in higher education, national S&T infrastructure, and the size and duration of NSF grants.

Essential to the conduct of Board business is a small and independent, yet adequate, core of full-time senior policy, clerical and operations staff, supplemented by short-term temporary contractual support as needed for various NSB endeavors. This core of NSB support is augmented by the Foundation as it continues to provide accounting, logistical and other necessary resources in support of the NSB and its missions, including continued Foundation support for Board activities through the cadre of Executive Secretaries to Board Committees and Task Forces.

By statute, the Board is authorized five professional positions and other clerical staff as necessary. In consultation with the Congress, the Board has defined these five professional positions as NSB senior S&E policy staff, and the clerical positions as NSB staff that support Board operations and related activities associated with the conduct of its meetings and oversight responsibilities. In August 2003, the NSB Chair charged the new NSB Executive Officer, who reports directly to the NSB Chair and also serves as the Director of the NSB Office (NSBO), with identifying options for broadening the NSBO staff capabilities to better support the broad mission of the NSB. The NSBO staff provides both the independent resources and capabilities for coordinating and implementing S&E policy analyses and development, and the operational support that are essential for the Board to fulfill its mission. The full impact of increasing the number of professional positions closer to the statutory level, along with necessary clerical and support staff, is expected to occur in FY 2006, with increased attention to addressing new skill requirements.

Personnel Compensation and Benefits and General Operating Expenses

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005	FY 2006 Request	Change over	
		Current Plan		FY 2005 Amount	Percent
<i>Personnel:</i>					
Personnel Compensation and Benefits	1,125	1,620	1,650	30	1.9%
<i>General Operations:</i>					
NSBO Staff Development and Training	5	25	30	5	20.0%
Advisory and Assistance Services	-	1,450	1,367	-83.00	-5.7%
Other Services	-	230	193	-37.00	-16.1%
Travel and Transportation of Persons	303	446	525	79	17.7%
Communications, Supplies and Equipment	-	190	220	30	15.8%
General Operating Expenses	776	-	-	-	0.0%
Representation Costs	8	9	15	6	66.7%
TOTAL	\$2,217	\$3,970	\$4,000	30	0.8%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

In addition to the NSBO's essential and independent resources and capabilities, external advisory and assistance services are especially critical to support production of NSB reports and supplement the NSB staff's general research and administration services to the Board. These external services provide the Board and its Office with the flexibility to respond independently, accurately and quickly to requests from Congress and the President, and to address issues raised by the Board itself.

