

NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD (NSB)

**\$4,380,000
+\$10,000 / 0.2%**

The FY 2017 Budget Request for National Science Board (Board) is \$4.38 million, an increase of \$10,000 from the FY 2016 Appropriation of \$4.37 million. The FY 2017 Budget Request will enable the Board to fulfill its policymaking responsibilities for NSF. It will also allow the Board to continue its responsibilities as outlined in the National Science Foundation (NSF) Act of 1950, including activities related to the review of major research facilities projects.

National Science Board Funding

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Request	Change Over FY 2016 Estimate Amount	Change Over FY 2016 Estimate Percent
Total, NSB	\$4.15	\$4.37	\$4.38	\$0.01	0.2%
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	18	19	19	-	-

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Appropriations 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.), \$4,370,000:\$4,380,000: Provided, That not to exceed \$2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses. (*Science Appropriations Act, 2016*)

National Science Board
FY 2017 Summary Statement
(Dollars in Millions)

	(Dollars in Millions)		
	Enacted/ Request	Expired	Obligations Actual/ Estimates
FY 2015 Appropriation	\$4.37	-\$0.22	\$4.15
FY 2016 Estimate	4.37		4.37
FY 2017 Request	4.38		4.38
\$ Change from FY 2016 Estimate			\$0.01
% Change from FY 2016 Estimate			0.2%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

National Science Board in Context

The National Science 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 consists of 24 presidentially-appointed members plus the Director of NSF as an *ex officio* member. Representing the broad U.S. science and engineering (S&E), research and education community, the Board serves collectively as an advisory body on S&E issues critical to the U.S. Board members serve six-year terms on staggered appointments and are drawn from industry, academe, non-profit organizations and

professional scientific societies representing the breadth of S&E disciplines. They are selected for their eminence in research, education, or public service.

The Board currently convenes four formally scheduled public meetings per year, with additional meetings as needed. In these meetings, the Board reviews and approves major NSF awards and new programs; oversees and provides policy direction to NSF; and addresses significant S&E related national policy issues. The Board initiates and conducts studies and reports on a range of policy topics. The Board reviews NSF's priorities to ensure progress and consistency along the strategic direction set for NSF and to ensure balance among new investments and core programs.

Policy Responsibilities

The Board examines issues of importance to the science, engineering, and education communities in general and to NSF in particular. Topics for exploration are determined through requests from Congress or the President, and as the Board identifies in consultation with the science community and NSF management. Recent reports have examined topics such as administrative burdens on researchers, merit review, mid-scale instrumentation, data policies, public research universities, science and engineering education, and the U.S. innovation system.

In addition to these 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 internal controls.

The **Committee on Strategy and Budget** (CSB) focuses on strategic planning and new investments for NSF; analyzes NSF's budget to ensure progress and consistency in relation to NSF's strategic direction; and identifies strategic (typically long-term) issues critical to NSF's future. Within CSB, the **Subcommittee on Facilities** provides guidance and review of NSF-funded research equipment and facilities portfolio, including Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account funded facilities as well as Research and Related Activities account funded facilities.

The **Committee on Education and Human Resources** (CEH) focuses on policy and advice on major issues related to the NSF education, informal science, and training portfolio. 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 for the Board's consideration.

The **Committee on Science and Engineering Indicators** (SEI) oversees the development and production of the Board's biennial report, *Science and Engineering Indicators (Indicators)* and other related reports. The Board's publication of *Indicators* is a statutory responsibility. The 2016 edition of *Indicators*¹ was transmitted to Congress and the President on January 11, 2016.

The Board is responsible for direct review and approval of NSF's largest awards, such as awards greater than 1 percent of the awarding directorate's or office's prior year current plan, or awards 0.1 percent or more of NSF's total prior year enacted budget. It 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 (R&RA) portfolio, reviews proposals representing a significant expenditure of agency resources, and makes recommendations, as appropriate, to the full Board for its consideration and action. CPP also provides oversight, guidance,

¹ www.nsf.gov/statistics/2016/nsb20161/#/

and advice on major policy and operational issues related to the NSF polar research portfolio.

The Board's **Executive Committee** (EC) includes the Director of NSF, who chairs the EC, and four elected members from the Board. The Board may delegate its powers and functions granted by the NSF Act to the Executive Committee or to the Director of NSF or both.

Ongoing activities of the Board include review and approval of the following:

- Large awards, MREFC projects and other proposals as needed;
- NSF's Management Response to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Semiannual Reports to Congress;
- The NSF, OIG, and the NSB budget submissions to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB);
- The priority order of projects in the MREFC Account;
- Inclusion of new project(s) requiring funding under the MREFC Account; and
- The NSF Strategic Plan.

The Board also reviews and makes recommendations on the following from NSF:

- Financial management reports for NSF;
- The operation of NSF's merit review system;
- NSF research infrastructure portfolio; and
- NSF human capital reports.

**Office of the National Science Board
Personnel Compensation and Benefits and Other Operating Expenses**

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Request	Change Over FY 2016 Estimate	
				Amount	Percent
Personnel Compensation Benefits (PC&B) ¹	\$2,901	\$3,126	\$3,136	\$10	0.3%
Staff Development and Training	42	36	36	-	-
Advisory and Assistance Services	936	721	721	-	-
Travel and Transportation of Persons	199	344	344	-	-
Communications, Supplies, and Equipment	68	140	140	-	-
Representation Costs	-	3	3	-	-
Total, NSB	\$4,146	\$4,370	\$4,380	\$10	0.2%
Full-Time Equivalent	18	19	19	-	-

Totals may not add due to rounding.

¹ FY 2017 PC&B includes a pay raise of 1.6 percent, as well as anticipated within grade and promotion increases.

Personnel Compensation and Benefits

The Board's FY 2017 budget supports a core of full-time policy, communications, administrative, legal, and operations staff. In addition to providing institutional memory for the Board, the Board Office staff provides both the resources and expertise for coordinating and implementing science and education policy analyses and development, broad communication and outreach programs, advice to the Board on legal aspects of its policies and activities, and operational and administrative support that are essential for the Board to fulfill its mission.

Other Operating Expenses

The Board's Advisory and Assistance Services budget line includes the resources needed to produce policy reports such as *Indicators*. Over the past several years, the Board has heightened its efforts to increase the accessibility of *Indicators* and to facilitate the use of *Indicators* data in policy decisions and analysis.

Most of the Board's reports require expert analysis from organizations such as the Science and Technology Policy Institute—a Federally Funded Research and Development Center supported by NSF. Another major item in the Advisory and Assistance Services line is the development and maintenance of a high priority content management system (CMS). This CMS enables the efficient search, identification, and retrieval of relevant documents for reference and research purposes. Additionally, this CMS houses substantive Board materials, such as discussions, decisions, formal resolutions, and meeting minutes. This critical system assists our efforts in meeting the requirements of transparency, participation and collaboration as directed in the 2009 OMB Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government. The development of this system will continue to be a high priority. Other costs within the Advisory and Assistance Services line are associated with the Open Government initiative including the webcasting and archiving of all open Board meetings, as well as transcription services, report printing and dissemination.

NSB's Travel and Transportation of Persons budget line primarily covers Board member travel costs to NSF headquarters for the Board's four annual meetings and a member-only retreat, as well as travel for invited speakers and participants in Board activities. The Communications, Supplies, and Equipment budget line funds the range of electronic purchases, upgrades and installations, such as copiers and computers.

The FY 2017 Budget Request will facilitate the continued, thoughtful enhancement of the Board's media and online engagement efforts. These efforts have successfully informed the general public as well as the science, engineering, and education communities about the Board's activities, its published reports and other informative materials. The Board will continue to expand the community it serves on issues and activities relevant to S&E research and education through enhanced outreach capabilities that include developing best practices to reach and engage with targeted stakeholders.