

MPS Advisory Committee Meeting January 14, 2014

The meeting began at 1 PM. NSF representatives, Chairman Juan de Pablo, and other guests were present in the room (1235 Stafford I). Other members participated remotely. See Appendix for details.

January 14

1:00 PM: Introductions, State of the Directorate, Science Hors D'oeuvre (Fleming Crim)

- Dr. Crim began the meeting with around-the-room introductions, followed by an example of current MPS research: The Twin Prime Conjecture. The core of Dr. Crim's presentation addressed personnel changes, budget developments (including the impact of sequestration), and program and facility updates. [[Slides posted](#)]

1:45 PM: Report from the StatsNSF Subcommittee (Iain Johnstone, James Berger, Claudia Rankins)

- Dr. Johnstone outlined the StatsNSF Subcommittee's charge, findings, and draft recommendations. AC members provided preliminary feedback in anticipation of a final report in July. Topics addressed included public access, workforce development, data capacity, and mechanisms to advance and improve data science and data utilization. Written comments from AC members may be submitted directly to the Committee chairs (Johnstone and Roberts), through the AC liaison (Berger), or through the MPS OAD (Cook). [[Slides posted](#)]

3:00 PM: Update from Subcommittee on Optics and Photonics (Tony Heinz)

- Dr. Heinz identified the charge to the Subcommittee and described workshops that have taken place to inform the Subcommittee's deliberations on status, gaps, and grand challenges. Discussion addressed the breadth of Optics and Photonics' relevance across NSF and the challenges related to supporting research at disciplinary boundaries. [[Slides posted](#)]

3:30 PM: Report on CHE Virtual Panels (Tanja Pietraß)

- Dr. Pietraß discussed the Chemistry Division's use of Virtual Panels during FY12 and FY13, detailing the motivation, challenges, benefits, and lessons learned. Discussion addressed the impact on young researchers, group dynamics, appropriateness for other Divisions, potential roles for mixed panels, and the type of proposals for which virtual panels may or may not be appropriate. This discussion was preparatory for a more detailed discussion of merit review at the next AC meeting. [[Slides posted](#)]

4:00 PM: BRAIN Initiative (Emery Brown)

- Dr. Brown presented a summary of a briefing on an interim report of the NIH Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) BRAIN Working Group, addressing the roots, aims, methods, and status of the BRAIN initiative. Discussion of the high priority research areas identified by the ACD group fostered discussion of the potential role of NSF and MPS fundamental science, including opportunities for interagency and international collaborations. [[Slides posted](#)]

4:45 PM: Planning for April joint session with the Advisory Committee on Cyberinfrastructure (ACCI) (Juan de Pablo)

- Dr. de Pablo introduced a list of proposed discussion topics. Aims include identification of challenges, synergies, opportunities, and mechanisms for collaboration. Discussion addressed both inherent data challenges (data management and/or data analysis) and computational challenges (modeling, simulation, algorithms, software), as well as the relevant needs of major MPS facilities. Members with specific interests were asked to join Dr. de Pablo in additional planning, through a formal subcommittee or informal discussions.

5:00 PM: Adjourn

Appendix: Attendees of January 14, 2014 MPS Advisory Committee meeting:

MEMBERS

James Berger*
Daniela Bortoletto*
Emery Brown*
Philip Bucksbaum*
George Crabtree*
Juan de Pablo, Chair
Francis DiSalvo, Jr.*
Bruce Elmegreen*
Barbara Finlayson-Pitts*
Irene Fonseca*
Elizabeth Lada*
Juan Meza*
Catherine Pilachowski*
Elsa Reichmanis*
Geoffrey West*

GUESTS

Tony Heinz*
Iain Johnstone*
Joydip Kundu*
James Murday
Miriam Quintal
Fred Roberts*
Bettina Schuffert*
Kate Weber
Alexandra Witze*

* indicates phone participant

NSF

Catalina Achim*
Caleb Autrey
Keith Bennett
Carol Bessel
Holly Brown*
Denise Caldwell
Kelsey Cook
Clark Cooper
Fleming Crim
James Curry
Max Funk
Mary Galvin-Donoghue
Sujit Ghosh
Jacquelyn Gervay-Hague
Emily Grumbling
Susan Hamm
Janice Hicks
Mary Ann Horn
Bruce Johnson*
Bradley Keister
Patricia Knezek
Glen Langston
A. J. Meir
Bill Miller
Sharon Neal*
James Neff*
Ann Orel
Bruce Palka
Tanja Pietraß
David Proctor
Claudia Rankins
Celeste Rohlfing
Randi Ruchti
Thomas Russell
Jim Shank
Paul Spyropoulos
Gabor Szekely
Jim Ulvestad
Michael Vogelius*
Haiyan Wang
Henry Warchall
Jim Whitmore