

Mathematical and Physical Sciences Advisory Committee (MPS AC)

F. Fleming Crim Assistant Director National Science Foundation November 3, 2014

One Good Cosmic Measure: Radio Telescopes Resolve Pleiades Distance Debate

A Science Hors d'Oeuvre



One Good Cosmic Measure: Radio Telescopes Resolve Pleiades Distance Debate Division of Astronomical Sciences (AST)



L. Girardi, Science 345, 1001 (2014)

a perspective on the article

A VLBI resolution of the Pleiades distance controversy

C. Melis, M. J. Reid, A. J. Mioduszewski, J. R. Stauffer, G. C. Bower, Science 345, 1029 (2014)

The Debate

The Pleiades star cluster is a laboratory for studying stellar evolution: same composition and age but different masses



Accurate models depend on precise distances BUT ground-based observations and stellar models disagree with satellite data



The Debate

Earlier ground-based observations and stellar models: 435 light years.



Hipparcos satellite (European Space Agency): 392 light years

Models and measurements are consistent for the Hyades



The Debate

Earlier ground-based observations and stellar models: 435 light years.



Hipparcos satellite (European Space Agency): 392 light years

Pleiades stars are too faint (unusual stellar physics) or the satellite measurement is wrong in this case

A Better Measurement: Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI)



Consequences

Accurate distances to Pleiades improve stellar models and improve other distance measurements

Warning of Hipparcos anomaly (spatially correlated errors) or unusual spatial distribution and unidentified physics in Pleiades

"At the very least, we have to agree with Melis *et al.* **that targeted observations using independent methods** are necessary for a cross check of the parallaxes provided by global astrometric solutions"

Reliability and Verifiability

Special Thanks to Pat Knezek



New Faces in Office of the Assistant Director



Sara Dwyer Science Assistant



Tiffany Sweat Administrative Support Assistant (PATHWAYS)



Jennifer Pearl Program Officer (Detailee DMS)



Eduardo Misawa Staff Associate (Detailee ENG/EEC)

Division Leadership

Chemistry -



Steve Bernasek David Bernasek Division Director Division Director Division Sept 2014 – Feb 2015 - Feb 2015 -







Linda Sapochek Acting Deputy Division Director

Materials



Carol Bessel Acting Deputy Division Director

Selection of Division Director and Deputy Division Director Underway Selection of Deputy Division Director Underway

MPS AC Membership Welcome to Three New Members



Robert Bryant Mathematics Duke University



Melanie Sanford Chemistry University of Michigan



Bill Zajc Physics Columbia University

Total of Eleven Members

MPS Advisory Committee

Quarterly Meetings (3 virtual, 1 at NSF)

> Next Meeting (Virtual) January 23, 2015

MPS Leadership Retreat Activities

Understanding and Locating MPS and NSF



Basic Science and Technological Innovation

Donald E. Stokes

Donald E. Stokes Brookings Institution Press, 1997

Image: Amazon.com



Bohr

Pure Basic Research

Use-Inspired Basic Research



Pasteur

Pure Applied Research



Consideration of Use



MPS Leadership Retreat Activities

Connections within MPS, within NSF, and to other Agencies



Division of Materials Research (DMR)



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Division of Materials Research (DMR)





Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS)



Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS)







Division of Astronomical Sciences (AST)



Division of Astronomical Sciences (AST)



Division of Astronomical Sciences (AST)



Division of Chemistry (CHE)



Division of Chemistry (CHE)





Division of Chemistry (CHE)





Division of Physics (PHY)



Division of Physics (PHY)



Division of Physics (PHY)







National Science Foundation

	FY 2014 \$ 7172 M	FY 2015 (request)	
NSF		\$ 7255 M	1.2%
R&RA	\$ 5808 M	\$ 5807 M	

FY 2015 BUDGET REQUEST TO CONGRESS National Science Foundation

FY 2015 Budget request to congress

MISSION: To promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense.

-From the National Science Foundation (NSF) Act of 1950

VISION: A Nation that creates and exploits new concepts in science and engineering and provides global leadership in research and education.

-From Investing in Science, Engineering, and Education for the Nation's Future: NSF Strategic Plan for 2014-2018 National Science Foundation

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FY 2015 BUDGET REQUEST TO CONGRESS FY 2016 OMB is considering the NSF submission



A Few Updates on Facilities



Construction begun Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST)

Construction continues on the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope



Commissioning well underway for upgraded Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)



A Few Updates on Activities and Issues Visits to MPS-Funded Institutions Visiting to learn about breadth of individual research

Columbia and Princeton (October)

COLUMBIA

UNIVERSITY

Two to four more visits during FY 2015



"Reproducibility of research results" On our agenda today

Public-Private Partnerships in Science Funding On our agenda today



A Few Updates on Activities and Issues Public Access to Data NSF plan for publications is at OSTP

Travel Limitations for Program Officers

OMB restrictions continue through FY 2015

NSF has more than met its goals some improvement

Community concern including Presidents of NAS, NAE, IOM NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

October 3, 2014

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The Honorable Shaun Donovan Director, Office of Management and Budget 725 17th Street, NW Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Donovan:

The current federal policy implemented to eliminate wastful and unnecessary travel by federal employees is having the undesimable side effect of curbing yeary productive travel to scientific meetings and causing unintentional harm to the functioning of the research enterprise. The federal government is the nation's largest employer of scientists and engineers, and the research community needs these highly qualified people to part of this essential interactive process.

In the two years since this memorandum was issued, it has resulted in a number of unintended consequences for scientific research, which is a significant driver of the U.S. eccomory. Just as the U.S. faces growing competition from other nations for leadership in science, engineering and medicine, the trevel regulations threatent to reduce the effectiveness of our national investment in science and innovation. The one-size-fits-all approach to travel restrictions fails to take into account the circlical inperfaces of face-to-face interactions in factoring scientific creativity and the particular needs of science-based agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the National Accounties and Space Administration, the National Oceance and Atmospheric Administration, and various parts of the Departments of Facelith, the National Science Foundation, the spatishty to use employees effectively to recruit ant relation. The leaders of these agencies are in the best position to report on how the current policy has hampered their ability to fulfil their missions, to plan ensibly, to use employees effectively to recruit ant relation employees, and to count ol administrative costs caused by implementing travel restrictions. Our concern is about how the travel policy has also affected communication about research advances and diffusion of new ideas.

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Today (Monday)

State of the Directorate 🗸

Interim Report "P5" Subcommittee 45 Young-Kee Kim

Data reproducibility, reliability, robustness 30 Fleming Crim

Report Responses and Discussion

Optics and Photonics 20 Clark Cooper

> Food Systems 20 Steve Bernasek



Today (Monday)

Public – Private Partnerships 20 Jennifer Pearl

AST Divestments and New Partnerships 20 Pat Knezek

Mathematical Sciences Innovation Incubator 20 Michael Vogelius

Preparation for Director's Visit 25 Juan DePablo



Tomorrow (Tuesday)

Report Response and Discussion Materials Instrumentation 20 Mary Galvin

> Midscale Programs 40 Pat Knezek, Denise Caldwell

Future Directions in Advanced Computing Infrastructure 60 Emily Carter, Juan Meza, Irene Qualters

> Director's Perspective 60 France Córdova