

MPS Advisory Committee Meeting

April 3, 2015

10:00 AM: Welcoming Remarks and Approval of Minutes – Juan de Pablo and Eduardo Misawa, Advisory Committee Chair, Juan de Pablo, and Eduardo Misawa, MPS Senior Staff Associate, welcomed the attendees and opened the session.

10:10 AM: State of the Directorate – Fleming Crim (Slides posted)
January 2015 Minutes were approved unanimously.

Dr. Crim presented the state of the MPS Directorate, beginning the discussion with an update to changes in the Directorate's personnel, following with MPS's funding history, the status of its facilities and programs, in addition to overview of FY15-FY16 budget. The brief discussion that followed focused on open access to the results of NSF funded projects.

11:00 AM: Report from the PHY Community of Visitors (COV) – Eric Cornell (Slides posted)
Dr. Cornell presented the report from the PHY Committee of Visitors. Dr. Cornell reported that PHY is a healthy division. He noted that all the PHY Staff were extremely open and helpful during the meeting and the COV had a clear look at what was going on. It was commented by at least one member of the MPSAC that the PHY Program Directors do extremely well at communicating the declination decisions, including encouraging PIs to speak with their PDs. One issue raised was the committee's view of the program placement of Plasma Physics within the Division. There was some discussion about this among the MPSAC, but no strong feelings were expressed and no specific recommendations were made. Dr. Caldwell thanked the entire COV committee for all their hard work and noted that the Division has already begun thinking and initiating steps to address the recommendations, especially at the high level, but also addressing the comments in the individual reports. The MPSAC Chair then called for a vote on the report, which was unanimously accepted.

11:35 AM: Report from the AST Community of Visitors (COV) – Larry Ramsey
Dr. Ramsey presented the report from the AST COV and the Advisory Committee unanimously accepted the report. The discussion that followed the presentation focused heavily on AST's facilities, portfolio diversity, and proposal funding rates. As the discussion concluded, AST commented on the need to find a balance in how funds are distributed within its portfolio in order to better serve community interests.

12:00 PM: Closing Discussions
Dr. Crim seeks to improve the proposal review process and to identify pathways to better leverage Directorate and Division level resources to better serve the needs and interests of the community.

Comments focused on a broad range of issues, including the nuances in grant-funding competitions, and ways to improve the proposal experiences for Principal Investigators.

12:22 PM: Meeting Adjourned

Appendix 1:

Attendees of April 3, 2015 MPS Advisory Committee meeting:

* indicates phone participant

MEMBERS

Emery Brown*
Robert Bryant*
Phil Bucksbaum*
Emily Carter*
George Crabtree*
Bruce Elmegreen*
Juan de Pablo, Chair
Juan Meza*
Catherine Pilachowski*
Melanie Sanford*
William Zajc*

GUESTS

Erin Cadwalader*
Eric Cornell*
Saul Gonzalez*
Ben Kallen*
Larry Ramsey*
James Murday*

NSF

Richard Barvainis*
Keith Bennett
David Berkowitz
Carol Bessel
Beth Blue
David Boboltz
Elizabeth Burrows
C. Denise Caldwell
Mark Coles
Clark Cooper
F. Fleming Crim
Sara Dwyer
Mary Galvin-Donoghue
Ralph Gaume
Eda Gimenez
Susan Hamm
Bradley Keister
Patricia Knezek
Gregory Mack
Craig McClure
Eduardo Misawa
James Neff
Celeste Rohlfing
Jim Shank
Paul Sokol*
Paul Spyropoulos
James Ulvestad
Wayne Van Citters*
Michael Vogelius*
S. Vyacheslav Lukin*
Henry Warchall
James Whitmore