

National Science Foundation
Directorate for Biological Sciences

BIO Advisory Committee Meeting
April 26, 2012 1:00PM to 3:00PM
Summary Minutes

BIO AC Members in Attendance:

Dr. José Onuchic, Chair	Dr. Jonas S. Almeida
Dr. David J. Asai	Dr. David Burgess
Dr. Sean Decatur	Dr. Michael J. Donoghue
Dr. Jacquelyn S. Fetrow	Dr. Katherine L. Gross
Dr. Robert M. Hazen	Dr. Hopi Hoekstra
Dr. Peter Wyse Jackson	Dr. Gaetano Montelione
Dr. Nalini N. Nadkarni	Dr. Wendy Raymond, CEOSE Liaison

BIO AC Members not in Attendance: Drs. Juliette Bell, Carol Brewer, James Siedow and David Stern

Welcome

Dr. Charles Liarakos, Senior Policy Advisor, Directorate for Biological Sciences

Dr. Liarakos welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the videoconference procedures and the agenda for the meeting.

Welcoming Remarks

Dr. John C. Wingfield, Assistant Director, Directorate for Biological Sciences

Dr. Wingfield thanked the BIO AC members in attendance for participating in the videoconference format and asked the participants to introduce themselves. Dr. Wingfield noted that he would have to leave the meeting at 2:15 PM to attend a White House function.

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Request Briefing

Dr. John C. Wingfield, Assistant Director, Directorate for Biological Sciences

Dr. Wingfield provided an overview of the total research request for FY 2013 by the Directorate for Biological Sciences and described the five grand challenges emphasized in the BIO FY 2013 budget:

1. Synthesizing Life-Like Systems
2. Genomes to Phenomes
3. The Brain: NeuroSystems
4. Earth, Climate, and Biosphere
5. Biological Diversity

Dr. Wingfield described BIO's contributions to the Foundation-wide set of "One NSF" priorities:

1. Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability (SEES)
2. Intersections of Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (BioMaPS)
3. Cyberinfrastructure Framework for 21st Century Science and Engineering (CIF21)
4. Cyber-Enabled Materials, Manufacturing & Smart Systems (CEMMSS)
5. Innovation Corps (I-Corps)
6. Integrated NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education (INSPIRE)

The BIO AC briefly discussed the synergy among five grand challenges and with the core programs. Questions were raised about how Division budgets were determined and the relationship between NSF activities and the One NSF priorities. Some concern was expressed about NSF doing a better job of

outreach in getting information about new initiatives to the scientific community as well as the focus of the broadening participation efforts.

Dr. Wingfield suggested the possibility of discussing the bio-economy at the next Advisory Committee meeting. Dr. Wingfield left the meeting at 2:17PM EDT at the conclusion of the discussion.

Discussion on Sub-committees for Biological Sciences Data Dilemma and Broadening Participation

Dr. Joann Roskoski, Deputy Assistant Director, Directorate for Biological Sciences

Charles Liarakos, Senior Policy Advisor, Directorate for Biological Sciences

Dr. Roskoski briefly described the formation of two BIO AC sub-committees to address the following areas of concern to the Biology Directorate:

1. Data dilemma in biological sciences
2. Broadening participation

Dr. Liarakos described how the sub-committees should function independently and seek whatever information they deemed necessary and appropriate. An executive secretary from BIO staff was assigned to each sub-committee to facilitate virtual meetings and provide information when requested. The sub-committees were charged to address the following questions for both areas of concern:

- Can BIO unilaterally do something to address this issue?
- What, if anything, should BIO do within its resources?

Dr. Melissa Cragin, AAAS Fellow for the Office of Assistant Director, Directorate for Biological Sciences, was assigned as the Executive Secretary for the Data Dilemma Sub-committee. Alison Beason, Program Analyst for the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences, was assigned as the Executive Secretary for the Broadening Participation Sub-committee. The two executive secretaries introduced themselves to the AC members.

BIO AC members were asked to volunteer for one of the sub-committees. Drs. Jonas Almeida, Gaetano Montelione, José Onuchic and Brett Tyler volunteered for the Data Dilemma Sub-committee. Dr. Almeida volunteered to Chair the sub-committee and was so appointed by the BIO AC Chair, Dr. José Onuchic.

Drs. David Burgess, Sean Decatur, Kay Gross, Linda Hyman, Hopi Hoekstra, Nalini Nadkarni, Peter Wyse Jackson and Wendy Raymond volunteered for the Broadening Participation Sub-committee. Drs. Sean Decatur and Kay Gross volunteered to Co-chair the sub-committee and were so appointed by the BIO AC Chair, Dr. José Onuchic. (After the meeting, Dr. Carol Brewer and Dr. Hopi Hoekstra were asked and agreed to serve on the Data Dilemma Sub-committee.)

Dr. Liarakos asked the sub-committee reports (at least preliminary versions) be presented at the next in-person BIO AC meeting expected to convene in fall 2012. If necessary the fall 2012 BIO AC meeting will be conducted via videoconference and the next in-person meeting would occur in spring 2013. Dr. Roskoski asked all sub-committee members to communicate freely with BIO through their executive secretaries.

A brief discussion followed regarding the expected perspectives and intended audience for the sub-committee reports. Dr. Hyman pointed out that a ruling by the Supreme Court expected in September 2012 in a case regarding affirmative action could influence the timeliness of the Broadening Participation Sub-committee report.

Open Discussion

On behalf of Dr. John Wingfield, Dr. Liarakos and Dr. Roskoski thanked those members of the BIO Advisory Committee in attendance whose terms were ending for their service to the scientific community and the Directorate for Biological Sciences: Drs. Michael Donoghue, Jacquelyn Fetrow, and Robert Hazen. Three BIO AC members not in attendance also were recognized in absentia: Drs. Juliette Bell, James Siedow and David Stern.

Dr. Liarakos solicited topics for future BIO AC meetings. Suggestions included results of the cyber-learning program, issues relating to limits on voluntary cost-sharing, salary requests and numbers of proposals submitted to BIO, and data relating to the ongoing pre-proposal process. Drs. Donoghue and Onuchic asked for follow ups and updates on past discussion items and presentations such as LTER, NEON and training grants for graduate student education.

A brief discussion followed regarding outreach to the community by BIO. Dr. Roskoski mentioned the likelihood of increased webcasts by program officers.

Some BIO AC members asked to submit their suggestions after the meeting. Dr. Liarakos agreed and also solicited comments and suggestions on the virtual meeting process.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00PM EDT.