

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
ARLINGTON, VA 22230**

**Engineering Directorate
Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships**

Report of the
Advisory Committee for
Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and
Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)
Programs

14 April 2008

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Advisory Committee (AdCom) for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs met April 14, 2008 in Baltimore, MD in conjunction with the NSF Phase II Grantees conference. The meeting was conducted in the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel, Calhoun Room.

Advisory Committee members in attendance included:

Mr. Sudhir Bhagwan
Mr. Albert Johnson
Dr. Karen Kerr
Mr. Tom Knight
Ms. Penny K. Pickett
Dr. Karthik Ramani
Dr. David B. Spencer
Dr. E. Jennings Taylor (Chairman)
Dr. Carole Teolis
Ms. Meg Wilson

Advisory Committee members absent:

Dr. Chris Busch
Ms. Trish Costello
Dr. Edward Getty
Dr. Patti Greene
Dr. Lizette Velazquez.

NSF representatives attending all or part of the meeting included:

Dr. Kesh Narayanan, Director, Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP)
Dr. Joseph Hennessey, Senior Advisor, Industrial Innovation and Partnerships
Tom Allnutt, SBIR/STTR Program Director, IIP
Errol Arkilic, SBIR/STTR Program Director, IIP
Juan Figueroa SBIR/STTR Program
Bill Haines, SBIR/STTR Program Director, IIP
Murali Nair, SBIR/STTR Program Director, IIP
James Rudd, SBIR/STTR Expert
George Vermont, SBIR/STTR Expert

AGENDA

The agenda for the meeting is included below.

Monday - April 14, 2008

7:30 a.m.	Sign-In	
8:00 a.m.	Welcome & Introductions	Kesh Narayanan E. Jennings Taylor
8:15 a.m.	Discussion & Approval of October AdCom Meeting Minutes	E. Jennings Taylor
8:45 a.m.	Feedback from the University/ Industry Partnership ENG Sub- Committee Meeting	Kesh Narayanan E. Jennings Taylor
9:30 a.m.	Commercialization Outcomes	George Vermont
10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:30 a.m.	Diversity Sub-Committee Report	Penny Picket
11:30 a.m.	Graduate Research Supplement in SBIR	Joe Hennessey
12:30 p.m.	Working Lunch & Discussion	
1:30 p.m.	Transformative and Interdisciplinary Research	Kesh Narayanan
2:30 p.m.	AC/GPA Update	David Spencer
3:30 p.m.	Break	
3:45 p.m.	General Discussion	
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

COMMENTS and FEEDBACK

The AdCom considered and provided feedback on the following discussion items from the meeting agenda.

Discussion and Approval of October 2007 AdCom Meeting Minutes

After a brief discussion, the AdCom approved the minutes from the previous meeting held in October 2007.

Feedback from the University/Industry Partnership ENG Subcommittee Meeting

Kesh Narayanan and E.J. Taylor reviewed the activities of the ENG AdCom addressing university-industry partnerships. A copy of the draft final report of the subcommittee, which will be presented to the ENG AdCom on April 25 was presented and discussed.

The AdCom endorses the work of the ENG AdCom University-Industry Subcommittee and the draft final report.

Commercialization Outcomes

George Vermont provided an update of the continuing survey of commercialization outcomes from NSF Phase II SBIR/STTR grantees. The AdCom noted that outcome measures are an important priority of the Engineering Directorate as well as the NSF.

The AdCom encourages the continuation of the survey of commercialization outcomes.

Diversity Subcommittee Report

Penny Picket reviewed the work of the diversity subcommittee to date. The subcommittee has held several planning sessions in person and via telephone conferencing. The AdCom noted that diversity is an important priority of the Engineering Directorate as well as the NSF.

The AdCom encourages the continuation of the work of the diversity subcommittee.

Graduate Research Supplement in SBIR

Joe Hennessey and Cheryl Albus reviewed the new NSF graduate research supplement. The AdCom discussed a number of challenges for implementation of said supplement with SBIR/STTR grantees. The AdCom noted that the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) has been used by a significant number of SBIR/STTR grantees and that the RUE supplement may provide guidance to a graduate student supplement more suitable for implementation by SBIR/STTR grantees.

The AdCom recommends that the SBIR/STTR program look for ways to modify the graduate research supplement so that it may be implemented with SBIR/STTR grantees.

Transformative and Interdisciplinary Research

Kesh Narayanan described transformative and interdisciplinary research activities at the NSF.

AC/GPA Update

David Spencer provided an update on the AdCom for GIPRA Performance Assessment. The AdCom noted that Dave's role of Chair of said AC/GPA committee provides an opportunity for small business input into NSF.

FUTURE MEETING

The next scheduled meeting for the AdCom is April 14 and 15, from noon to noon, at the NSF in Arlington, VA.