

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
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OFFICE OF THE  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
FOR GEOSCIENCES

Date: September 25, 2008

To: File

From: Assistant Director for Geosciences

Re: Selection of the Ocean Sciences Division (OCE) Integrative Program Section (IPS) Facilities Committee of Visitors (COV)

*TCC 12/8/08*

The credibility of the COV mechanism rests, in a large measure, on the selection of credible independent experts who are able to provide balanced and impartial assessments to NSF. Prior to sending out the letters of invitation to serve on the OCE/IPS Facilities COV, the OCE Division Director and the Assistant Director for Geosciences were consulted regarding potential COV candidates.

The COV represented a diverse group with a range of expertise significant for the program review. The COV consisted of five members, three females and two males, representing the East Coast, West Coast, South and Midwest. One participant (Mr. John Freitag) previously was an IPA for ONR in ship facilities, and is retired from the University of Rhode Island where he was the manager of the Marine Technical Services Program. Four of the COV members were active research scientists, one of whom (Dr. Carmen Aguilar) designates herself as Hispanic or Latino. The researchers have used facility assets managed by OCE IPS, and two were from University National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) ship operating institutions. These two (Dr. Keir Becker, (RSMAS) and Dr. Maureen Conte (WHOI and BIOS) were conflicted with the institutions mentioned and were blocked from accessing jackets. During the period before the COV met, Dr. Ellen Druffel, a member of AC/GEO called to inform that she had a conflict with Scripps and she was assigned a new proposal with no conflict. Additionally, none of the COV members have received funding support from or submitted any proposals to the programs reviewed. Ellen Druffel was scheduled to attend the meeting, but personal matters necessitated that she cancel the trip to NSF. However, she participated in the entire meeting by teleconference. The original chair who was appointed to the committee was Mr. Bob Houtman. A month before the meeting he was officially approved as the new section head for IPS. Consequently, he recused himself from the COV and attended the debriefing as incoming section head. In his place, Mr. John Freitag was appointed Chair since he had the most diverse background with regard to oceanographic facilities and instrumentation. Dr. Ellen Druffel, AC/GEO member, will report the findings and recommendations of the COV panel during the next AC/GEO meeting.

Below is the list of COV members:

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