



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

*Directorate for Geosciences
Division of Ocean Sciences*

Memorandum

Date: August 20, 2012

To: File

From: Acting Assistant Director for Geosciences 

Regarding: Selection of COV for the research and education programs in Ocean Sciences

The credibility of the Committee of Visitors (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.

The OCE COV represented a broad segment of disciplines consistent with the scope of activities managed through the Division of Ocean Sciences' research and education programs. The Committee contained expertise in Biological Oceanography, Chemical Oceanography, Marine Geology and Geophysics, Ocean Drilling, Physical Oceanography, Ocean Technology and Ocean Education. This diverse 10-member Committee included five females, two African Americans, one Hispanic, one early-career faculty, and representatives from a diverse group of institutions (three federal agencies, one primarily undergraduate institution, one minority-serving institution and 5 oceanographic institutions) and regions of the country (5 states and DC represented).

Dr. Robert Duce, the incoming chair of the National Research Council's Ocean Studies Board and a past member of the Advisory Committee for Geosciences (AC-GEO), served as chair of the COV. Findings and recommendations of the COV will be reported at the October 2012 AC-GEO meeting.

There were no conflicts of interest between any COV member and Program Officers, and COV members were not allowed access to any jackets with which they had a conflict or for which they had served as a panelist or reviewer for another proposal(s) in a competition.

COV members present during the meeting were:

OCE COV Committee

Dr. Kelly Benoit-Bird
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Dr. Paula Bontempi
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Dr. Margaret Delaney (AC-GEO)
Vice Chancellor, Planning and Budget
1156 High Street
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Dr. Robert A. Duce, Distinguished Professor Emeritus (Chair)
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Dr. Steven D. Gaines (AC-GEO)
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Dr. Scott Harper, Program Officer
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Dr. Brandon Jones
STAR Graduate Fellowship Program
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Dr. Lisa D. White, Ph.D.
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