

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 Wilson Boulevard
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FOR GEOSCIENCES

September 20, 2016

Dr. Susan Humphris, Senior Scientist
Geology and Geophysics
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
266 Woods Hole Rd.
MS# 08
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1050

Dear Dr. Humphris:

Thank you for submitting the report of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Antarctic Sciences Section (ANT) of the Division of Polar Programs, which was held May 17-19, 2016. Both the COV report and the NSF response will be presented to the NSF Advisory Committee for Geosciences at their October 2016 meeting. Once approved by AC GEO, the report and response will be public.

I sincerely appreciate the time and energy expended by you and the members of the COV. NSF and the Antarctic sciences community will benefit greatly from your thorough and thoughtful analysis of the section.

I was pleased to hear that the committee was very impressed with the quality, thoroughness, and integrity of the merit review process in ANT. As noted in your report, ANT encompasses an extraordinarily broad range of disciplines and I am also pleased with your finding that the Section promotes equity in support across the Antarctic sciences. Your insights and recommendations will be valuable in helping us to sustain that essential support.

Eric Saltzman, Section Head for Antarctic Sciences, has provided a set of specific responses to your findings and recommendations in the enclosed document. Thanks again for your contribution to maintaining the tradition of close cooperation between NSF and the Antarctic research community through this process of periodic outside review by a COV.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Wakimoto", written in a cursive style.

Roger Wakimoto
Assistant Director

Cc: COV Members
Dr. George M. Hornberger, Chair, AC/GEO