



National Science Foundation
Directorate for Geosciences

Office of the Assistant Director

Dr. Miguel Goni
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Dear Dr. Goni:

Thank you for submitting the report of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Marine Geosciences and Ocean Sections of the Ocean Sciences Division held on August 7 and 8, 2019. Both the COV report and the NSF response will be presented to the NSF Advisory Committee for Geosciences (AC-GEO) in October 2019. Once approved by the AC-GEO, the report and NSF's response will be made public.

I sincerely appreciate the time and energy that you and each member of the COV dedicated to this process. NSF and the Ocean Sciences community will benefit greatly from your thorough and thoughtful analysis. I was pleased to hear the COV concluded that both OCE Science Sections were well managed, and I am particularly appreciative of your constructive suggestions for improvements. The committee's insights and recommendations will help us balance the near-term and long-range strategic and management objectives for the Directorate of Geosciences.

I recognize the COV's contributions went far beyond the two days of face-to-face meetings and am particularly grateful for the COV's responsiveness to the Self Study OCE undertook. As you are aware this is the first time OCE (and GEO) have completed a self-study. The many hours of advance work with the self-study and reviewing portfolios of awards and declinations were clear from the informed discussions and thoughtful recommendations you have provided. We owe you and all members of the COV many thanks.

Drs. Candace Major and Lisa Clough, as well as the entirety of the Marine Geosciences and Ocean Sections, have provided a specific set of responses to the committee's findings and recommendations in the enclosed document. This initial set of responses often includes a promise to consider the way forward, develop an action plan, and report on impacts of the action plan. As such, this first response will be followed at annual intervals, with the actions and impacts being more specifically documented over time.

Thank you again for your team's contribution to maintaining the tradition of close cooperation between NSF and the Ocean Sciences community through the process of periodic outside review by a COV.

Sincerely,

William E. Easterling
Assistant Director

CC: AC-GEO Chair and COV Members