



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
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**Office of the Assistant Director
Directorate for Geosciences**

September 12, 2023

Dr. Carol Arnosti
University of North Carolina
3117A Venable/Murray Hall CB#3300
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3300
arnosti@email.unc.edu

Dear Dr. Arnosti,

Thank you for submitting the report of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Division of Ocean Sciences (OCE), which was held June 29-30, 2023. Both the COV report and the NSF response will be presented to the NSF Advisory Committee for Geosciences (AC GEO) at their September 2023 meeting. Once approved by AC GEO, the report and response will be 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 of OCE's four science programs. I was pleased to hear that the COV finds OCE programs to be well managed and proactive in their strategic planning. I also thank you for the constructive recommendations for improvements, especially for Merit Review Processes and for advancing Belonging, Accessibility, Justice, Equity and Inclusion (BAJEDI) principles. Your insights and recommendations will help OCE and the Directorate for Geosciences balance both near and long-range strategic science and management objectives.

Your COV's contributions go far beyond the two-day virtual meeting. The many hours of advance work, reviewing proposals and other pertinent background information, were clear from the informed discussion and insightful questions raised during the meeting. We owe you and all the members many thanks for mastering the NSF's electronic business processes in the weeks leading up to the COV meeting.

Dr. James McManus, Division Director for Ocean Sciences, has provided responses to your recommendations in the enclosed document.

Once again, thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alexandra R. Isern
Assistant Director
Directorate for Geosciences

Enclosures