

National Science Foundation
Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences
Support for the Statistical Sciences at NSF (StatSNSF)
A Subcommittee of the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Advisory Committee

Charge:

StatSNSF will work in concert with a cross-foundation NSF working group, various communities and societies to deliver recommendations concerning the statistical sciences at NSF to the MPSAC and other NSF advisory committees in Spring 2013.

The scope of the subcommittee and the NSF working group will include the following:

- An analysis of the growing role of statistics in all areas of science and engineering, including the changing character of research across the spectrum of “individual investigator” and “group” science;
- An inventory of activities and programs related to statistics, theoretical and applied, across NSF;
- The management of these activities in the NSF;
- Interactions between the various communities and societies related to the field of statistics;
- The role of statistical sciences in data-enabled science.

Input to be used by StatSNSF will include, but not be limited to:

- The existing report accepted by the MPSAC at its Spring 2012 meeting;
- Input from the mathematical and statistical societies within the U.S;
- Input from individual members of the community on this matter;
- Discussions by StatSNSF subcommittee members with NSF Advisory Committees;
- Discussions with NSF leadership across the Foundation.

Recommendations in the report should include, but not be limited to:

- Ways to better structure and support statistical sciences across the NSF, including recommendations for better coordination of internal programs, development of new programs, relationship of individual and group activities and their relationship with grand challenge problems in science and engineering, and arguments for why any recommended actions would be better for the communities than what exists at present. Recommendations will not include renaming of the Division of Mathematical Sciences. Particularly desired are recommendations that can be implemented within the current divisional and directorate structure of NSF;
- Means of enhancing the role of statistics in data-intensive science as an integral segment of data initiatives being developed within NSF; and

- Activities that could be undertaken, perhaps with NSF support, in the communities and societies that could help to address some of the issues that have been highlighted in the April 2012 report;
- Other comments the subcommittee deems relevant to the charge.

MPS will arrange for creation of a website or email address to which the community may send its comments. While the subcommittee is not required to announce its meetings and hold them open to the public because it will be reporting directly to the MPSAC, any documents received by or created by the subcommittee may be subject to access by the public.

The subcommittee should deliver its final report and present a summary of this report for consideration of acceptance by the MPSAC at its meeting in April 2013.