

MEMORANDUM TO MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Summary Report of the November 21, 2013 Meeting

The major actions and approvals of the National Science Board (Board, NSB) and a preliminary summary of the proceedings at the Board's November 21, 2013 meeting are provided. This memorandum is also made available for public review. The minutes of the Plenary Open Session for the November 2013 meeting will be posted on the Board's public Web site (<http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/>) following Board approval. The archived webcast of the meeting is located at the following URL: <http://www.tvworldwide.com/events/nsf/131121/>.

1. Major Actions and Approvals at the 434th meeting of the Board (not in priority order):

- a. The Board authorized the Acting Director, at her discretion, to make an award for the management and operation of the *JOIDES Resolution* (NSB-13-64).
- b. The Board authorized the Acting Director, at her discretion, to make an award for the operation of the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (CHESS) (NSB-13-63).
- c. The Board approved the *Science and Engineering Indicators 2014 Digest*, subject to final edits approved by the Committee on Science and Engineering Indicators (SEI) chairman and the Board Chairman.
- d. The Board approved the recipients of the 2014 Vannevar Bush Award and the 2014 NSB Public Service Awards. The names of the awardees will be revealed in a public announcement in the spring.
- e. The Board approved the minutes of the following NSB meetings: Plenary Open Session (NSB-13-50), August 2013, <http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/meetings/2013/0815/minutes.pdf>; Plenary Open Session, (NSB-13-58), September 2013, <http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/meetings/2013/0919/minutes.pdf>; Plenary Executive Closed Session (NSB-13-48), August 2013; Plenary Executive Closed Session (NSB-13-57), September 2013; and Plenary Closed Session (NSB-13-49), August 2013.

2. Board Chairman's Introduction and Report

Dr. Dan Arvizu, NSB Chairman, reported that the SEI committee approved the *Science and Engineering Indicators 2014 Digest* (Digest) by e-mail, and sent the Digest to all Board Members for review last week. The full Board approved the Digest, subject to final edits approved by the SEI chairman and the Board Chairman (see 1.c).

On the subject of outreach, Dr. Arvizu reported that on November 6, 2013, Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, NSB Vice Chairman, testified before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. The title of the hearing was "America COMPETES: Science and the U.S. Economy." He presented information on NSF and the importance of basic research, the U.S. research and innovation ecosystem and NSF's role in it, samples of economic and societal returns on investment in basic research, and the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) as a national role model for capacity-building and enhancing competitiveness.

Dr. Arvizu welcomed two new National Science Board Office (Board Office) staff members:

- Ms. Nadine Lymn joined the Board Office as the Communications Director on September 23, 2013.
- Dr. Elise Lipkowitz joined the Board Office as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellow on September 18, 2013.

3. NSF Director's Report

Dr. Cora Marrett, Acting NSF Director, announced the following NSF staff changes:

- Dr. Scott Edwards joined NSF as Director, Division of Biological Infrastructure (DBI), Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) in June 2013.
- Dr. Penelope L. Firth was appointed Division Director, Division of Environmental Biology (DEB), BIO on October 21, 2013.
- Dr. Sylvia M. James was appointed Division Director, Division of Human Resource Development (HRD), Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) on September 22, 2013.
- Dr. JoAnn S. Lighty joined NSF as Division Director, Division of Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental and Transport Systems (CBET), Directorate for Engineering (ENG) on October 28, 2013.

Dr. Marrett announced that the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) awarded the Finance and Budget team that produces the *Performance and Financial Highlights* report each year a Certificate of Excellence in Citizen Centric Reporting for 2012. AGA offers the certificate for entities that prepare and distribute high-quality Citizen-Centric Reports. This team was led by Shirley Watt (Office of Budget, Finance, and Award Management; Budget Division) and John Lynskey (Office of Budget, Finance, and Award Management (BFA); Division of Financial Management (DFM)).

Dr. Marrett provided the NSB with an update and presentation on the impact of the October 1-16, 2013 Federal government shutdown. The lapse in appropriations and government shutdown

had a significant impact on NSF operations and the science, engineering, and education communities NSF serves. There were significant impacts for NSF staff, panels, awards, oversight, and facilities. NSF will continue to review and enhance its plans, processes, and communications in the event of a future shutdown.

Dr. Marrett provided an update on congressional matters: Since the last meeting of the Board in August, the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee has released a discussion draft on the *Frontiers in Innovation Research, Science and Technology* (FIRST Act). The legislation would reauthorize fundamental science and research activities at NSF, the National Institutes for Standards and Technology (NIST), and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). The Office of the Director (OD) will continue to examine the legislation and its effect on the Foundation.

Dr. Marrett reminded the Board that NSF is operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) through January 15. The pathway to a final FY 2014 spending bill is currently unknown.

4. Board Committee Reports

[Note: The Committee on Programs and Plans was the only committee that met during the November 21, 2013 meeting.]

a. Committee on Programs and Plans (CPP)

During Open Session, CPP heard a report from the members of the NSB Antarctica Review Team, who recently returned from a site visit to the Antarctic facilities. CPP also heard an information item on Next-Generation National Nanotechnology Infrastructure.

During Closed Session, CPP considered two action items:

- NSB Action Item (NSB/CPP-13-34): Management and Operation of the *JOIDES Resolution* for the International Ocean Discovery Program (See 1.a)
- NSB Action Item (NSB/CPP-13-33): Operation of the Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source (CHESS) (See 1.b)

[signed]
Michael L. Van Woert
Executive Officer