



Plans for the Annual Merit Review Summary

Linnea M. Avallone, Staff Associate
C. Suzanne Iacono, Office Head
Stephen P. Meacham, Section Head

Office of Integrative Activities

July 2019

Modernizing the Annual Merit Review Summary



**Streamlining
the Merit
Review
Report**

2017 Report
to NSB

Changes for 2018?

FY18 document to NSB

Planning for FY 2018

- Plan to continue with the “skinny” version as in FY 2017
 - 16 tables, 18 figures
- Tables and data behind figures available as downloadable Excel files
- Call the document “Merit Review Digest”

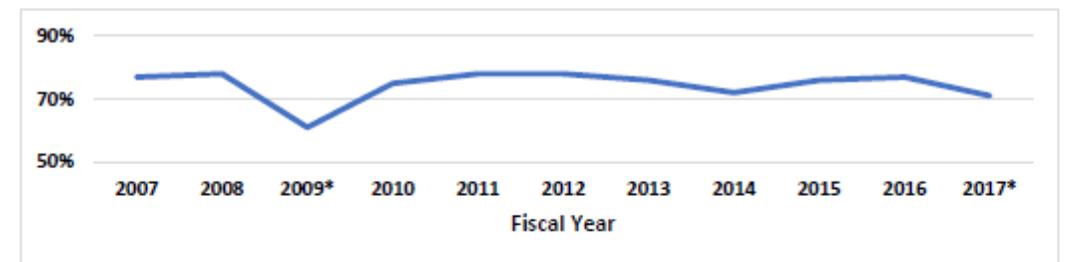
suspended for the last three quarters to delay processing proposals that would have been declined due to lack of funding. This enabled some of these proposals to be funded with the ARRA appropriation.

Table 12. Proposal Dwell Time: Percentage of Proposals Processed Within Six Months

2007	2008	2009*	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*
77%	78%	61%	75%	78%	78%	76%	72%	76%	77%	71%

Source: NSF Enterprise Information System, 10/01/17. * Dwell-time goal suspended in FY 2009 and FY 2017.

Figure 14. Percentage of Proposals Processed within Six Months



* Dwell time goal suspended

G. Mechanisms to Encourage Transformative Research

All NSF programs encourage and support potentially transformative research proposals. NSF also has several mechanisms particularly developed to encourage the submission of certain types

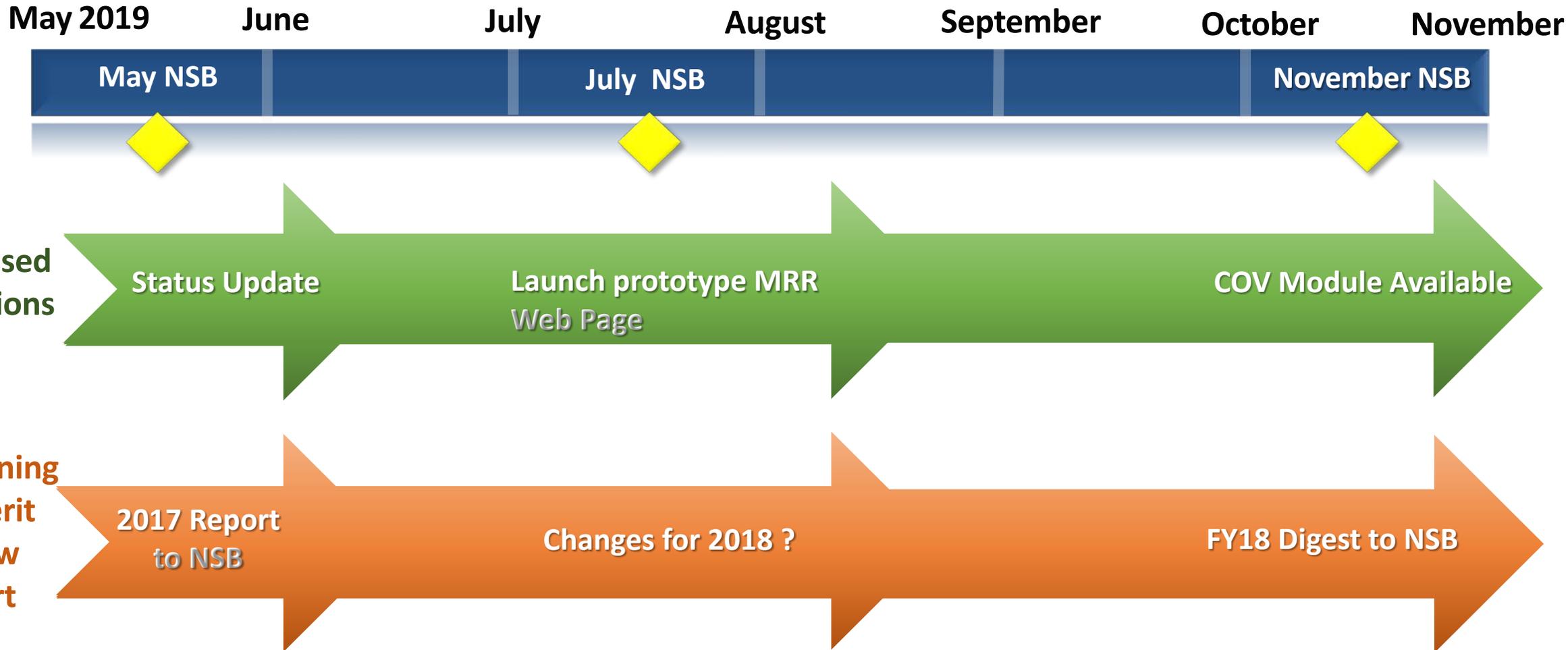
Planning for Future Annual Merit Review Digests

- We are examining the feasibility of automating production of tables and figures in the Merit Review Digest
- Current process:
 - Minimally automated and labor-intensive
- Future process:
 - Largely automated, but includes approval step
 - Updated tables provided in ready-to-publish formats (html, pdf, xls)
- Automation estimated to save ~50% of personnel time and reduce errors

Planning for Future Annual Merit Review Digests

- First step:
 - Prototype the process for creation of one complex table
 - Summer/Fall 2019
- Beyond:
 - Assess resources required for automation of all tables and figures
 - If process is feasible, develop timeline and implementation plan

Modernizing the Annual Merit Review Summary



Questions?