

Basis for Closing Meetings and Closure Vote Notice

NSB-NSF Commission on Merit Review – 2/20/2024

Committee on Awards and Facilities – 2/20/2024

National Science Board – 2/21-22/2024

Committee on Strategy – 2/21/2024

On February 15, 2024, the Executive Committee of the National Science Board (NSB, Board) voted to close portions of the February 2024 meetings of the NSB, NSB-NSF Commission on Merit Review (MRX), the Committee on Awards and Facilities (A&F), and the Committee on Strategy (CS). All participating Executive Committee members, Panchanathan, Reed, Leath, and Ward, voted “yes” to close the meetings. The justification for closing the meetings is provided in the attached certificate.

For closed meetings of the Board, the NSF Chief Operating Officer, Assistant Directors and Office Heads, senior OD staff members, Board Executive Officer, Board Counsel, the applicable Executive Secretaries and NSBO staff may attend in addition to the Board members. For the committee meetings, staff preparing a presentation or who are needed to answer questions may be invited to attend. For the executive closed agenda items, only the NSF Chief Operating Officer, Board Executive Officer, Board Counsel, and Executive Secretary are also expected to attend. The Board Chair or Committee Chair may allow other necessary or appropriate attendees or restrict attendance further.

CERTIFICATE

It is my opinion that the discussions in the following meetings of the NSB and its subdivisions may properly be closed for the reasons given.

MRX closed meeting

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Closed agenda items to include:

- Commission Chair’s opening remarks regarding the agenda
- Discussion of Big Ten Listening Session
- Discussion of Preliminary Recommendations and Suggestions
- Commission Chair’s closing remarks

Items in this meeting may properly be closed to the public pursuant to 5 USC § 552b (c) (9)(B), regarding information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action and thereby enable a third party to take action that injures the interests of the federal government.

A&F closed meeting

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Closed agenda items to include:

- Committee Chair’s Opening Remarks regarding the agenda

- Context for National Solar Observatory Operations and Management Award
 - Discussion of ASTRO2020 Decadal Recommendations and vote on proposed resolution
- Item 1 is to be closed pursuant to all the provisions listed below. Item 2 is to be closed pursuant to 5 USC § 552b (c) (4) (trade secrets/confidential commercial or financial information); Item 3 is to be closed pursuant to 5 USC § 552b (c) (3)(B) and 42 USC § 1863 (k) (budgets prior to the submission of the President’s budget to Congress).

CS and A&F joint closed meeting

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

Closed agenda items to include:

- Chairs’ Opening Remarks regarding the agenda
- Discussion of Budget Context and Planning for Future Major Facilities
- Next Steps

All items to be closed pursuant to 5 USC § 552b (c) (3)(B) and 42 USC § 1863 (k) (budgets prior to the submission of the President’s budget to Congress).

NSB Plenary closed sessions

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Closed agenda items to include:

- Update NSF Sexual Assault and Harassment Prevention Response

Item to be closed pursuant to 5 USC § 552b (c) (6) (unwarranted invasion of personal privacy).

CS closed meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Closed agenda items:

- NSF’s FY 2025 Budget Request

Item to be closed pursuant to 5 USC § 552b (c) (3)(B) and 42 USC § 1863(k) (consideration of budgets and related information prior to the submission of the President’s budget to Congress).

NSB Plenary closed sessions

Thursday, February 22, 2024

Closed agenda items:

- NSB Chair’s Remarks
- Approval of November 2023 Closed Minutes
- NSF Director’s Remarks
 - o Agency Operating Status
 - o Personnel Updates
- Committee Reports
 - o A&F: Astro2020 Decadal Recommendation, discussion, and vote; Discussion of NSO; Report on Joint CS/A&F meeting
 - o CS: NSF FY 2025 Annual Performance Plan and FY 2023 Annual Performance Report
 - o CO: NSF’s Pilot programs to include Broader Impacts practitioners on Committees of Visitors and to improve reviewer training
 - o NSB-NSF Commission on Merit Review: Commission deliberation on policy recommendations, listening session debrief

- Vote to move into a Plenary Executive Closed session

Items 1 and 2 to be closed for the reasons listed below. Item 3 to be closed pursuant to (c)(2) (internal personnel rules and practices) and 5 USC § 552b (c) (6) (unwarranted invasion of personal privacy). Item 4 to be closed pursuant to 5 USC § 552b (c) (3)(B) and 42 USC § 1863 (k) (budgets prior to the submission of the President's budget to Congress) and 5 USC § 552b (c) (9)(B), regarding information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action and thereby enable a third party to take action that injures the interests of the federal government.

Executive Plenary Closed Session

February 22, 2024

Closed agenda items to include:

- NSB Chair's opening remarks
- Approval of November 2023 EPC Minutes
- NSF Director's Remarks
 - o Organizational Updates
- Chair's closing remarks

Items to be closed pursuant to (c)(2) (internal personnel rules and practices) and 5 USC § 552b (c) (6) (unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), and 5 USC § 552b (c) (9)(B), regarding information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed agency action and thereby enable a third party to take action that injures the interests of the federal government.

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