



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
Directorate for Engineering
4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 505
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 3, 2011

TO: Dr. Subra Suresh, Director, NSF

FROM: Dr. Thomas W. Peterson, Assistant Director for Engineering

SUBJECT: FY 2007-2009 Report of the Committee of Visitors for the Division of Engineering Education & Centers

Attached please find the FY 2007-2009 Report of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Division of Engineering Education and Centers (EEC). The COV meeting was held at NSF on February 18-19, 2010. This report was discussed during Engineering Advisory Committee meeting held on April 14-15, 2010.

Dr. Allen Soyster was the EEC Division Director at the time, and Dr. Theresa Maldonado has since joined EEC as the new Division Director in January 2011. Although she served on the COV as a representative of Texas A&M University, I had requested that she comment on this package as the new Division Director. I believe you will find the EEC response to the COV report to be thoughtful and thorough.

The COV, which was assembled to review the EEC Division, consisted of 16 members whose professional and educational experiences were broad enough to evaluate the division effectively. EEC is unique in that its programs, such as the Engineering Research Centers and the Engineering Education Research programs, require interdisciplinary and integrative collaborations among academic, industry, international partners, and others. The COV reflected that broad range of expertise and experience, as more explicitly delineated in the enclosed "Division Report on Diversity, Organizational Balance, Geographic Balance, and Resolution of Conflicts-of-Interest." Six engineering and one computer science disciplines were represented as well as one expert on instruction and curriculum development.

I would like to highlight the diversity of the COV members. Of the 16 members, seven were male and nine were female. Two members were African-American (both women), and two members were Hispanic (one woman). The Chair of the COV was Hispanic male, and the Co-Chair was female.

The COV was briefed on conflicts-of-interest, and all conflicts were resolved in advance of the meeting. Both the Chair and Co-Chair serve on the Engineering Advisory Committee. A third member of the COV served on an NSF advisory committee.

We recognize that the COV process is critical for us to identify our strengths and weaknesses as we continuously develop our strategies in support of the NSF mission. Please let me know if you have any questions.