



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
Directorate for Engineering
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Room 575
Arlington, Virginia 22230

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 2011

TO: Dr. Subra Suresh, Director, NSF

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

SUBJECT: Report of the Committee of Visitors for the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships

Attached please find the report of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships (IIP). This report was discussed during the Directorate for Engineering's Advisory Committee meeting which was held October 21-22, 2010. The report and our response documents are attached.

The COV, which was assembled to review the IIP Division, consisted of fourteen members whose professional and educational experiences were broad enough to support the evaluation of the IIP Division that supports both academic and small business participants. Of the fourteen persons, two were female and twelve were male, one was African-American, one was Asian-American and three were Latin-American. Members represented various states, including two EPSCOR states. Rounding out the geographic balance were five members from the east, four from the south, three from the pacific, and two from the central region of the country.

Six of the COV members were from academe, eight were from industry. The Co-Chairs of the COV included a Latino male and Dean of the College of Engineering at North Carolina State University along with a Caucasian male and owner of the small business firm Invistics, based out of Georgia. One member was a managing director who has worked for international law agencies and government agencies. Two members were professors of engineering while two members were Deans of Engineering at their respective universities. One member was the Vice President of Research Operations at a company. One member was the Executive Chairman of their company. One member is the founder and VP of Engineering of their company. One member was the Head of Business Development for a venture capital company. One member was the president of their company. One was founder of a company and managing director of another company. One member was an independent consultant in industry.

The collective backgrounds reflected a range of diversity in academe, small and large businesses, investment communities and effective combinations, all of which were relevant to IIP's academic and small business partnership programs. All invited COV members attended the meeting.

One member was serving on the SBIR/STTR Advisory Committee at the time of the COV. A full conflict of interest briefing was held during the December 2, 2009 COV teleconference. Another overview of conflicts was given on the first day of the COV meeting. Conflicts of interest were confirmed by asking all members to complete the NSF Conflict of Interest form. Assignments were carefully made to ensure that there would be no potential conflicts of interest.

Attachments

cc:

Martha Rubenstein, BFA

Amy Northcutt, OIRM

Allison Lerner, OIG

Clifford J. Gabriel, OIA

Pam O'Neil, OIA

Susanne Bolton, HRM