



**National Science Foundation**  
Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 2, 2023  
To: Office of Integrative Activities  
From: Dr. Sean L. Jones, Assistant Director, Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences  
Subject: Diversity and Conflict of Interest Report for the Division of Physics FY 2023 Committee of Visitors

The Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) Division of Physics (PHY) charged a Committee of Visitors (COV) to review the quality and integrity of the merit review process, program operations, and program-level matters over the four-year period of FY 2019 through FY 2022. The COV met from January 3 to January 24, 2023, with asynchronous virtual subgroup meetings beginning January 3<sup>rd</sup> and full COV in-person meetings January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The MPS Advisory Committee accepted the COV's report on April 19, 2023.

The COV consisted of 34 members of the research community in physics sub-disciplines supported through the Division's programs. These individuals were chosen for their breadth of expertise and experience in fields within the purview of PHY. Collectively, the COV membership represented a variety of perspectives and was balanced across the various sub-disciplines. Diversity and inclusiveness in the COV membership is illustrated by the committee's institutional, geographics, and demographic diversity, as shown below:

Category	Number of COV Members
Member of MPS Advisory Committee	1
No NSF Support in Five Years	16
Organization Type:	
PhD Granting Institution	21
Primarily Undergraduate Institution	4
Federal Agency	7
Non-Profit/Private Foundation	2
Geographic Location:	
North East	6
South Atlantic	9
East South Central	1
West South Central	2
East North Central	2
West North Central	1
Mountain	2
Pacific	11

Gender:	
Male	19
Female	15
Race:	
White	25
Asian	1
Black or African-American	4
Multi-Racial	3
Did Not Provide	1
Ethnicity:	
Hispanic	2
Not Hispanic	32

Conflict of interest and confidentiality rules were discussed with the COV members prior to the start of the formal COV meetings. All COV members were required to complete NSF Conflict of Interest Form 1230P and to notify the division of their individual conflicts of interest. All identified conflicts were managed through the Electronic Jacket CoV module, which prevented COV members from electronically accessing any proposal with which they were conflicted. COV members were also instructed to leave the room during discussions of any actions with which they had conflicts of interest. The PHY Conflict of Interest official was available at all times during the COV process to answer questions and resolve issues.

The Division of Physics believes that the efforts of the COV and the COV Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Beise from the University of Maryland College Park, were outstanding in all respects. The Division staff detected no situations in which conflicts of interest were not handled properly. The Division was pleased with the quality, professionalism, and thoroughness of the COV report and its findings.