

National Science Foundation
 Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research
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TO: C. Suzanne Iacono, Acting Head, Office of Integrative Activities

FROM: Denise M. Barnes, Head, Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

DATE: October 23, 2015

SUBJECT: Report on Diversity, Independence, Balance, and Resolution of Conflicts for the EPSCoR Committee of Visitors

This memo reflects the diversity, independence, balance, and resolution of conflicts of the Committee of Visitors (COV) held June 9-10, 2015.

This COV was assembled to review the EPSCoR program during the period FY 2012-2014. The COV consisted of eight (8) members and was composed of a diverse group with respect to geography, institutional type, gender, ethnicity, sector (private vs public), and scientific representation. The following table describes the main features of the COV with respect to these issues:

Category of COV Membership	No. of COV Members in Category
Organization Type: <input type="checkbox"/> University..... <input type="checkbox"/> Four-year College..... <input type="checkbox"/> Two-year College..... <input type="checkbox"/> K-12 School or LEA..... <input type="checkbox"/> Industry..... <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Agency..... <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Private Foundation..... <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Associations.....7.....1.....
Location <input type="checkbox"/> East..... <input type="checkbox"/> Midwest/North <input type="checkbox"/> West..... <input type="checkbox"/> South.....1.....3.....3.....1.....
Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Female..... <input type="checkbox"/> Male.....3.....5.....
Persons with Disabilities.....
Race/Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> White..... <input type="checkbox"/> Black..... <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic..... <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander..... <input type="checkbox"/> Native American.....4.....3.....1.....1.....

The members' research expertise and familiarity with management of large projects was well-suited to the program review. All invited COV members attended the meeting in person. COV members were briefed on the EPSCoR program via informational webinar prior to the COV meeting. None had involvement with EPSCoR awards or proposals under review.

Conflict-of-interest (COI) and confidentiality briefings were held through webinars and presentation slides (that were acknowledged after reading) prior to the on-site meeting, and COV members were reminded to observe COI and confidentiality rules at the on-site meeting. All COV members were required to complete NSF Conflict of Interest Form 1230P. Known conflicts of interest, such as those involving the home institutions of COV members, were entered into the COV module in eJacket prior to the release of jackets to the members. Entering these conflicts prevented COV members from electronically accessing proposals with which they were conflicted. The COI officer from EPSCoR was available during the COV meeting to answer questions and resolve issues regarding conflicts of interest. All known conflicts of interest were resolved.