NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 Wilson Boulevard
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

OFFICE OF POLAR PROGRAMS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eric Saltzman and the OPP Advisory Committee

FROM: Karl A. Erb

RE: 2009 Committee of Visitor Reports

DATE: November 3, 2010

All of us in the Office greatly appreciate the Committee's conscientious approach to the COV process, from your efforts to focus the reviews, to monitor the activities of your COV subcommittees, and to distill the results as you have done in your letter dated May 21, 2010.

Your summary conclusion, that the COV's were "overwhelmingly positive in their review of OPP processes in terms of both the integrity and efficiency of the program's processes and management, and also in terms of the results of NSF investments," was most gratifying, but we also recognize that there is room for improvement.

The attached document provides our response to the key recommendations of the three COV's, as distilled in your May letter. I am committed to implementing those recommendations over the following year because I believe they will lead to a more effective U.S. polar research program in the future.

In conclusion, on behalf of all of us in OPP, I thank the Committee and the chairs and members of the COV's for their analysis and advice and for working with us to identify areas where our support for the U.S. polar research community can be improved.

Attachments: Detailed Response to Recommendations (November 3)
Recommendation from Saltzman to Erb (May 21)