



UNITES STATES GOVERNMENT  
M E M O R A N D U M

DIVISION OF MATERIALS RESEARCH

Date: November 30, 2015  
From: Deputy Division Director, Division of Materials Research  
Subject: Diversity and Conflict-of-Interest Report for the Division of Materials Research  
FY 2015 Committee of Visitors  
To: Assistant Director, MPS

The Division of Materials research held its triennial COV on 16-18 September 2015. The COV comprised 35 members of the research and education community in materials research sub-disciplines supported through the Division's programs. These individuals were chosen for their scientific expertise and their breadth of understanding of issues impacting research and education in materials research. Collectively, the COV membership represented a variety of perspectives and was balanced across the various sub-disciplines in the field. Inclusiveness in the COV membership is illustrated by the committee's geographic, institutional, and demographic diversity, as shown below:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number</b>
<i>Member of MPS Advisory Committee</i>	1
<i>Academic Institutional Type</i>	
Research	24
Comprehensive	0
4-year	0
Public	19
Private	5
<i>Industry</i>	1
<i>Outside the US</i>	0
<i>Government</i>	10
<i>Location</i>	
Northeast	3
East/Mid-Atlantic	10
South/Southeast	7
Midwest	6
Southwest	1
West/Northwest	8
International	0
<i>Female</i>	12
<i>Male</i>	23
<i>Minority</i>	2
<i>No NSF Support in Five Years</i>	8

The COV was briefed on issues of Conflict of Interests for the purpose of one of the COV's statutory responsibilities, namely the reading of proposals, reviews, and recommendations and commenting on the handling of actions and the appropriateness of recommendations. Each COV member completed an NSF Conflict of Interests form. In addition, COV members were instructed to reveal to all other COV members in the breakout sessions all such conflicts or appearances of conflicts as described in the NSF Conflicts of Interest Manual 10. Proposals and files were not available to COV members in those cases where the member had a conflict of interest. Furthermore, the COV members were instructed to leave the room during discussion of such actions.

The Division of Materials Research believes that the efforts of the COV and the COV Chair, Dr. Nicholas Abbott, University of Wisconsin, 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.