



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
**M E M O R A N D U M**

**DIVISION OF ASTRONOMICAL SCIENCES**

**Date:** April 15, 2005  
**From:** Executive Officer, Division of Materials Research  
**Subject:** **Diversity and Conflict-of-Interest Report for the Division of Materials Research FY 2005 Committee of Visitors**  
**To:** Senior Science Associate, MPS

The Division of Materials Research held its triennial COV on February 16-18, 2005. The COV comprised 30 members of the research and education community in materials and related fields. These individuals were chosen for their scientific expertise and their breadth of understanding of issues impacting research and education in materials and the condensed matter sciences. 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                                | 15            |
| Comprehensive                           | 1             |
| 4-Year                                  | 1             |
| Public                                  | 9             |
| Private                                 | 8             |
| <i>Industry</i>                         | 5             |
| <i>Outside the US</i>                   | 2             |
| <i>Government</i>                       | 8             |
| <i>Location</i>                         |               |
| Northeast                               | 3             |
| East / Mid-Atlantic                     | 4             |
| South / Southeast                       | 3             |
| Midwest                                 | 5             |
| Southwest                               | 3             |
| West / Northwest                        | 10            |
| International                           | 2             |
| <i>Female</i>                           | 7             |
| <i>Male</i>                             | 23            |
| <i>Minority</i>                         | 5             |
| <i>No NSF Support in Five Years</i>     | 17            |

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 a 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. Horst Stormer of Columbia University, 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.