



Evaluating the Impact of Proposal and Award Management Mechanisms

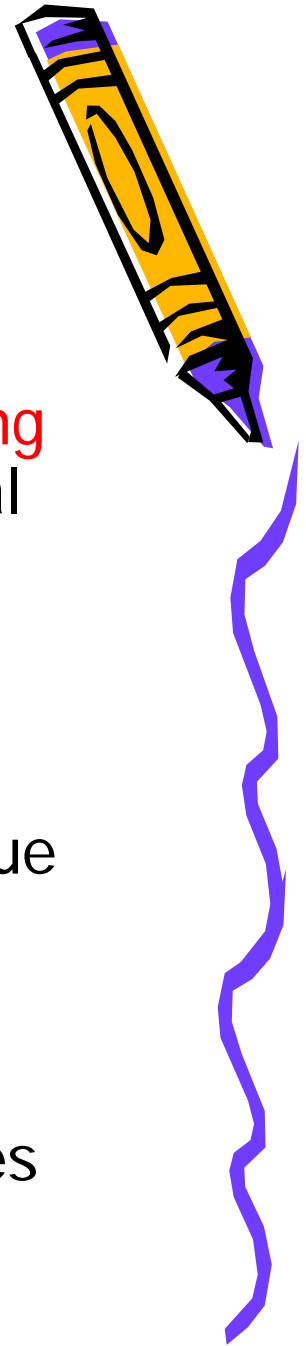
Dr. Kathie L. Olsen
NSF Deputy Director
March 2006



NSB Guidance November 2005

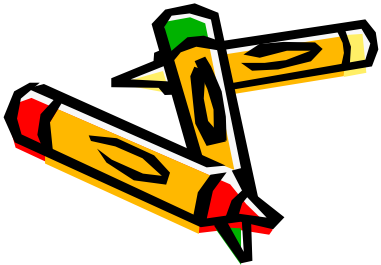
- “While the Board feels strongly that **increasing average award size and duration** is an essential long-term strategy, it is also recognized that **raising the proposal success rate** might occasionally be an appropriate short-term strategy”
- “Approaches must be balanced so as to continue **encouraging young investigators** and more **potentially transformative proposals**”

 Interrelated objectives



NSF Response: A Suite of Related Activities

- Annual Merit Review Report
 - Dr. Fae Korsmo to discuss in A&O tomorrow
- Improving the effectiveness, transparency, and uniformity of the Merit Review Process
 - Dr. Jim Lightborne to discuss in A&O tomorrow
- Portfolio Analysis and Impact of the Small Grants for Exploratory Research (SGER)
- *Working group to investigate proposal award and management mechanisms*
 - (Was "success rates" study)



Working Group on the Impact of Proposal and Award Management Mechanisms

- Will identify best practices to improve NSF program announcement and solicitation processes in ways that **achieve appropriate balances between proposal success rates, award sizes and award duration** in the various types of awards that comprise the total NSF portfolio
 - Flexibility for each Directorate to respond to specific opportunities and needs
 - **Emphasis on individual, investigator-initiated grants**



Working Group on the Impact of Proposal and Award Management Mechanisms

- Obtain and analyze current data
- Identify reasons for declines in success rates
- Assess impacts of initial/limited strategies and practices that have attempted to address these issues
- Identify anticipated impacts of changing success rates, award amounts and/or award durations, balance between standard vs. continuing grants, etc.
 - on NSF (program officers, business ops.)
 - on the S&E community
- Recommend best practices and steps forward



Working Group on the Impact of Proposal and Award Management Mechanisms

- NSF-Wide Working Group Formed
March, 2006
 - Joanne Tornow, EHR/BIO (Chair)
 - Paul Herer, OD (Exec. Secretary)

