



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

DIVISION OF ASTRONOMICAL SCIENCES

Date: April 14, 2005
From: Executive Officer, Division of Astronomical Sciences
Subject: **Diversity and Conflict-of-Interest Report for the Division of Astronomical Sciences FY 2005 Committee of Visitors**
To: Senior Science Associate, MPS

The Division of Astronomical Sciences held its triennial COV on February 22-24, 2005. The COV comprised 14 members of the astronomical sciences community. These individuals were chosen for their scientific expertise and their breadth of understanding of issues impacting the astronomical sciences. Collectively, the COV membership represented a variety of perspectives and was balanced across the various sub-disciplines in astronomy and astrophysics. Inclusiveness in the COV membership is illustrated by the committee's geographic, institutional and demographic diversity, as shown below:

Category	Number
<i>Member of MPS Advisory Committee</i>	1
<i>Academic Institutional Type</i>	
Research	11
Comprehensive	0
4-Year	1
Public	4
Private	8
<i>Industry</i>	0
<i>Government</i>	2
<i>Location</i>	
Northeast	2
East	4
Southeast	3
Midwest	3
Southwest	1
West Coast	1
<i>Female</i> ¹	2
<i>Male</i>	12
<i>Minority</i>	2
<i>No NSF Support in Five Years</i>	4
<i>No AST support in Five Years</i>	6

¹ As originally constituted the COV membership included 4 women. The submission of proposals and identification of conflicts of interest excluded two of them from membership late in the process. The late date made it impractical to find alternative membership.

The COV was briefed on issues of Conflict of Interest 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 Conflicts of Interest form. Proposals and files were not available to COV members in those cases where the member had a conflict of interest.

The Division of Astronomical Sciences believed that the efforts of the COV and the COV Chair, Dr. J. Craig Wheeler of University of Texas, Austin, 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.