

## **Division of Physics Response to FY 2006 CoV Report**

The formal response of the Physics Division to the recommendations of the CoV remains unchanged, and the Division continues to implement the elements of that response within the constraints imposed by budgetary limitations. Following are updates on the issues raised by the CoV that were not addressed in the 2007 update.

**Issue 1: High-Level Portfolio Balance.** PHY remains in agreement with the advice that the individual PI component of the portfolio be kept at a level of 55% of the Divisional budget. At the close of FY2007 the individual PI component of the portfolio stood at 57% of the total; the projection for FY2008 is comparable. The Division has developed an overall Master Plan for establishing the funding portfolio on a yearly basis and projecting needs for the future for facilities and program priorities. Within this plan the 50% mark continues to function as an absolute lower limit.

**Issue 2: Physics Frontiers Centers.** In the two years since the preparation of the CoV report, PHY has completed two PFC competitions. The results of these two competitions demonstrate that the value-added component of the PFC requirements continues to play the key role in the review discussions and in the final recommendations. In addition, the PHY commitment to an open competition policy has been justified in that each competition has led to a phase-out of existing centers that no longer measure up to the expectations of the program. In FY2007 funding for the PFC program stood at 8% of the total PHY portfolio; the projected FY2008 level is comparable.

**Issue 3: Proposed Mid-Scale Instrumentation Program.** Regrettably, budgetary constraints continue to prohibit PHY from opening this program to general application. Nonetheless, the Division has been able to commit a small level of funding to fulfilling key instrumentation needs identified through the individual PI programs.

**Issue 4: Planning Budgets for Large Facilities.** Since the time of the CoV report, the NSF has begun implementation of a full-scale facilities management approach that will address the issues of life-cycle budget planning and agency oversight. PHY works closely with the NSF facilities group in charge of implementing this plan. Internally, the PHY Master Plan addresses the need to exercise careful budget planning in construction and operations of new facilities, particularly the latter. Recently, the Division added a Chief Facilities Officer who will have primary oversight responsibility for facilities in the Division.

**Issue 5: DUSEL.** Comments made in addressing Issue 4 apply especially to DUSEL. The site selection for DUSEL has been completed, and an award has been made for the preliminary design. A solicitation for the initial suite of experiments is in the planning stage. Steven Meador, the new Chief Facilities Officer, will have DUSEL as his primary responsibility.

Issue 6: PHY Staffing. The announcement of the addition of new staff at the Program Director level was made in the last update. Since that time, PHY has added the Chief Facilities Officer mentioned above.

Issue 7: Broadening Participation. PHY continues to address this issue through the special program created in FY2007 that targets enabling awards that can have a demonstrable impact on broadening participation. This is also a review criterion for Physics Frontiers Centers and facilities proposals.

Issue 8: Improvements for Future CoVs. PHY is beginning planning for the FY2009 CoV and will certainly implement the recommendation to the fullest extent possible.

Issue 9: Suggestions for Improved Proposal Processing. PHY continues to work to improve an understanding of expectations of broader impact. Increasing cross-disciplinary participation in reviews has come through co-reviews in the Biological Physics program, the PIF program, and the Physics Frontiers Centers program.

Issue 10: Program Specific and Other Issues. PHY continues to remain aware of the points raised here and is addressing them within the limitations of the budget. Implementation of the Master Plan helps identify pressing budget needs for individual programs.