


NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

Date: September 23, 2005
To: File
From: Assistant Director for Geosciences 
Re: Selection of the Ocean Sciences Division (OCE) Integrative Program Section (IPS) Facilities Committee of Visitors (COV)

The credibility of the COV mechanism rests, in a large measure, on the selection of credible independent experts who are able to provide balanced and impartial assessments to NSF. Prior to sending out the letters of invitation to serve on the OCE/IPS Facilities COV, the OCE Division Director and the Assistant Director for Geosciences were consulted regarding potential COV candidates.

The COV represented a diverse group with a range of expertise significant for the program review. The COV consisted of five members, three females and two males. One participant (Dr. Barbara Moore) was from another federal government agency; one participant (Captain Bob Houtman) was recently retired from the US Navy and is currently employed at a local non-governmental organization. Three of the COV members were active research scientists, one of whom (Dr. Francisco Chavez) were born in Peru and designates himself as Hispanic. The researchers have used facility assets managed by OCE IPS, although none of the COV members were from University National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) ship operating institutions. Additionally, none of the COV members have received funding support from or submitted any proposals to the programs reviewed. Two of the participants were members of the Advisory Committee for Geosciences (AC/GEO) and served as Chair and Co-Chair of the meeting. Dr. Francisco Chavez, Co-Chair of the COV and AC/GEO member, will report the findings and recommendations of the COV panel during the next AC/GEO meeting.

There were no conflicts of interest among COV members. Below is the list of COV members:

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