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Office of the Director

March 9, 2007

Dr. Tony F. Chan	Dr. Dennis Kovar
Assistant Director	Associate Director
Directorate for	Office of Nuclear Physics
Mathematical & Physical Sciences	U. S. Department of Energy
National Science Foundation	GTN SC-26
4201 Wilson Boulevard	19901 Germantown Road
Arlington, VA 22230	Germantown, MD 20874

Dear Drs. Chan and Kovar:

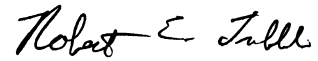
In a letter dated July 17, 2006, the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee (NSAC) was charged to assemble a Committee of Visitors (COV) to review the management process of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Nuclear Physics (ONP) in the Office of Science. The charge letter specifically requested that 'the panel should provide an assessment of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend and document proposal actions and programs for both the DOE laboratory and university programs.' NSAC established a COV in August, 2006 with Elizabeth Beise of the University of Maryland as Chair, and charged them to carry out the review.

The COV met January 9-11, 2007, at the DOE Germantown, MD, headquarters. On the first day of the meeting, the subcommittee heard presentations from ONP staff and then spent the remaining time reviewing procedures used to formulate funding recommendations for FY 2004-2006 and drafting recommendations for a report. Following the site visit, a written report was produced and submitted to NSAC in March, 2007.

The report notes that 'the COV found the office to be very well managed, with dedicated and hard-working staff.' It found that 'the portfolio of science supported by the Office of Nuclear Physics is outstanding, world-leading in some areas and world class in others.' The COV generated 11 recommendations for ONP to consider as it manages the program in the future, which range from suggested changes in procedures used for tracking university grants to developing a new fellowship program in accelerator physics. In its recommendations, the COV strongly endorsed the need for additional staff in the ONP office and urged the office to carry out more site visits once additional staff members are in place.

NSAC unanimously accepts the Report of the Committee of Visitors, concurring with its findings and recommendations. A copy of the final Report is enclosed with this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert E. Tribble".

Robert E. Tribble
Chair, NSAC

cc: Joseph Dehmer
Brad Keister