

Charter of the Review of the U.S. Antarctic Program Blue Ribbon Panel

1. Official Designation

Review of the U.S. Antarctic Program Blue Ribbon Panel (“the Panel”), #76826

2. Authority

Having determined that it is in the public interest in connection with the performance of National Science Foundation (NSF) duties under law and in consultation with the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President (OSTP), the NSF Director hereby establishes the Review of the U.S. Antarctic Program Blue Ribbon Panel pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

3. Scope and Objectives

The Panel will conduct an independent review of the current U.S. Antarctic Program to ensure the nation is pursuing the best twenty-year trajectory for conducting science and diplomacy in Antarctica – one that is environmentally sound, safe, innovative, affordable, sustainable, and consistent with the Antarctic Treaty. The Panel should aim to identify and characterize a range of options for supporting and implementing the required national scientific endeavors, international collaborations, and strong U.S. presence in Antarctica. The identification and characterization of these options should address the following objectives:

- (a) expediting a renewed and more efficient U.S. capability to support the changing landscape of scientific requirements in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean;
- (b) supporting U.S. federal agencies’ needs for access to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean;
- (c) stimulating scientific and technological innovation in polar endeavors; and
- (d) fitting within the current budget profile of the U.S. Government’s Antarctic activities.

In addition to the objectives described above, the review should examine the appropriate amount of R&D and complementary scientific activities (e.g. satellite and observational missions) needed to make Antarctic activities most productive and affordable over the long term, as well as appropriate opportunities for international collaboration.

4. Description of Duties

The Panel will provide advice only.

5. Official to Whom the Panel Reports

The Panel reports to the Director, NSF and the Director, OSTP. The Panel will submit its report within approximately 270 days of its first meeting.

6. Support

The NSF Office of Polar Programs will provide financial and administrative support (including contractor staff as necessary) and operating funds for the Panel.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years

The estimated operating cost associated with supporting the Panel's functions is estimated to be approximately \$673,500, including all direct and indirect expenses. It is estimated that approximately 2 full-time equivalents will be required to support the Panel.

8. Designated Federal Officer

The DFO will be either a full-time or a permanent part-time employee, who will approve or call all of the Panel's meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Panel and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when he/she determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Directors of NSF and OSTP. The DFO will be the Director, Office of Polar Programs, NSF. The Alternate DFO will be the Division Director, Antarctic Infrastructure & Logistics, Office of Polar Programs, NSF. Other DFO's may be designated by the DFO.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings

The Panel will conduct approximately four meetings as appropriate at various locations throughout the United States.¹

10. Duration

The Panel will exist for a term not to exceed 12 months, unless earlier renewed.

11. Termination

The Panel will terminate no later than 12 months from the date of its establishment.

12. Membership and Designation

The Panel will consist of members to be appointed by the Director, NSF and the Director, OSTP. The Directors will ensure a balanced representation in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed. Each member serves at the pleasure of the Directors. The Panel will consist of approximately 10-12 members. It is anticipated that the members will serve as Special Government Employees for the duration of the Panel, renewable at the discretion of the Directors. The NSF Director will designate the chair of the Panel.

13. Subcommittees

Subcommittees, task forces, and/or work groups may be established by NSF to conduct studies and/or fact-finding requiring an effort of limited duration. Such subcommittees, task forces, and work groups may not work independently and must report their

¹ Members of the Panel will also conduct a fact-finding trip to Antarctica and possibly also to other locations in the U.S. Antarctic Program's logistics chain.

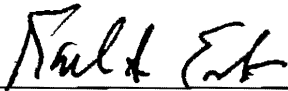
recommendations and advice to the full Panel for full deliberation and discussion. If the Panel is terminated, all subcommittees, task forces, and work groups will also terminate.

14. Recordkeeping

The records of the Panel will be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2, and the applicable agency records disposition schedule.

15. Certification

This Panel is determined to be necessary and in the public interest.



Karl A. Erb
Director, Office of Polar Programs
National Science Foundation

Date Filed with Congress: APR 7 2011