

BES Response to the Report of the BESAC Committee of Visitors (COV) Review of the Chemical Sciences, Geosciences, and Biosciences (CSGB) Division

Date of COV: March 28-30, 2017

Date of Response: June 30, 2017

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| | COV Recommendation | BES Response |
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| 1 | <p>The COV strongly recommends providing the opportunity and resources for Program Officers to travel to national and international conferences, as well as to visit the laboratories of researchers in their programs. Attending conferences is critical for PMs to maintain cutting edge portfolios and identify emerging research opportunities. Visiting the laboratories of principal investigators allows the Program Managers to maintain closer contact with these researchers and to discuss new research directions within their programs. Overall, increased travel will broaden participation in the BES programs and ensure that the research remains at the scientific frontier.</p> | <p>BES agrees that travel to scientific conferences and on-site reviews is critical to maintain programs at the forefront of science, and will execute this recommendation as effectively as possible within the allocated travel resources.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Implementation of the PAMS system is laudable. Nonetheless, additional modules and improvements will be beneficial. Additional functionality is needed to facilitate analysis of demographic data. Such data are critical for determining how the reviewing process could be improved and the diversity of the investigator pool could be broadened. The National Laboratory module needs to be developed and deployed to facilitate efficient and effective review of laboratory programs. Attention needs to be paid to the ease of use for people who are new to the system, e.g., members of a COV.</p> | <p>BES appreciates the feedback on this initial use of PAMS in a COV. BES will continue to work with SC on changes to PAMS functionalities, including areas related demographic data and laboratory programs, as well as actions by BES that can be taken external to PAMS to improve the experience of future COVs. The CSGB prepared a lessons-learned document to assist BES and SC with the use of PAMS in future COVs.</p> |
| 3 | <p>The COV commends CSGB's initial implementation of strategic planning and encourages broadening the scope to identify synergies and new research opportunities among various CSGB teams and with other BES divisions.</p> | <p>BES concurs with this recommendation. The CSGB Division is continuing strategic planning activities with the specific intent of identifying research opportunities that crosscut the CSGB programs and teams and will increase synergistic interactions within the division and across BES.</p> |