

NP Response to the Report of the DOE/NSF NSAC Committee of Visitors Review of Nuclear Physics Program

Date of COV: December 9-11, 2019

Date of Response: May 7, 2020

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COV Recommendation	Program Response
Program Element 1	
<p>It is urgent that the Research Division director position be filled within a year. The Research Division director is imperative for the health of the NP office and the community it serves. The division directors, in conjunction with the AD, are essential to lead new initiatives aligned with national priorities.</p>	<p>NP agrees with this COV recommendation, and will work urgently, in coordination with SC management to fulfill it, pursuing all options including ones that do not involve a Federal hire.</p>
Program Element 2	
<p>The COV recommends that the NP leadership develop a succession plan for the entire office. This plan needs to mitigate the risk involved in the potential loss of critical staff in the office.</p>	<p>NP will develop a succession plan in the context of projected available resources. It will also pursue opportunities for cross-training of NP staff in order to mitigate potential single point failures due to the loss of key staff.</p>

Program Element 3	
In addition to filling the current vacancies, the office should bring on board an additional scientist to support the nuclear theory program.	NP will seek additional help to remedy over-sized workloads within the NP office, including in the nuclear theory program. In addition to potential new hires, alternative possibilities include bringing in additional IPAs and detailees.
Program Element 4	
The office should continue their efforts to increase diversity and inclusion in the community of PIs and those supported by their grants. Such a process should be informed by data to the extent possible.	NP will continue and enhance its efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in the Federal workplace and in all the facilities and research communities it supports. To the extent possible, efforts will be informed and driven by data.
Program Element 5	
The COV recommends that the Office of Science maintain the strong relationship between the Office of Nuclear Physics and the U.S. research community through the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee.	NP will continue to seek to support and maintain the strong productive relationship with the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee which has served the nation and the field of nuclear science well for four decades.