

## 2021 Current Fiscal Year Report: Proposal Review Panel for Polar Programs

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>		<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>	
National Science Foundation		2021	
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>		<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>	
Proposal Review Panel for Polar Programs		1209	
<b>4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
No	06/29/2020	06/29/2022	
<b>8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?</b>	<b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>	<b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>	
No			
<b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear</b>	<b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>	<b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b>	
Continue	No	Not Applicable	
<b>11. Establishment Authority</b>	Agency Authority		
<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
ADM IV-100	08/30/1990	Continuing	No
<b>15. Description of Committee</b>	Grant Review Committee		
<b>16a. Total Number of Reports</b>	No Reports for this FiscalYear		
<b>17a. Open Meetings and Dates</b>	<b>17b. Closed Meetings and Dates</b>	<b>17c. Partially Closed Meetings and Dates</b>	<b>17d. Total Meetings and Dates</b>
No Meetings			

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00

**19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)**

0.00 0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

Panel deliberations resulted in the ranking and recommendations of awards made in Antarctic and Arctic sciences and the Antarctic Artists and Writers proposals. The panel's advice is weighed carefully by the program staff in making funding recommendations.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

Panel membership includes individuals with expertise in all areas of the sciences involved, selected for broad geographical distribution, and to provide an appropriate mix of types of colleges and universities. Represented were women and minorities, plus industrial scientists. The Antarctic Artists and Writers panel is comprised of professional artists, writers, scientists, and educators—some, current or former NSF award recipients with first-hand Antarctic experience.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

Panels meet at least once a year as soon as practical after proposal deadlines. Continuance of the panel is essential to fair and equitable decision-making as to which proposals are supported.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The breadth of expertise required for fair peer evaluation of the variety of proposals received transcends the ability of NSF staff, so outside advice from scientists from all polar disciplines is essential. Panel review is the only viable means to obtain adequate review of proposals in these varied programs.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

To review proposals that included information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals.

**21. Remarks**

None

**Designated Federal Officer**

Kelly Falkner Director, Division of Polar Programs

### **Narrative Description**

NSF accomplishes its mission through monetary awards (grants) for research and education and science and engineering. Grants are awarded in response to proposals submitted to the Foundation. Proposal review panels are often used as part of the merit review process that gathers information about the strengths and weaknesses of proposals. This advice is one of the principal inputs to NSF's decisions to either make an awards or decline to support a particular proposal.

### **What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Trust in government                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Major policy changes                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Advance in scientific research                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery                         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Increased customer satisfaction                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### **Outcome Comments**

N/A

### **What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Unable to Determine        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Over \$10,000,000          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Cost Savings Other         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### **Cost Savings Comments**

N/A

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

204

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

Varies, depending on the number of proposals taken to panel. The number of recommendations is for the fiscal year.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

100%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

Proposal review panels provide advice to NSF to inform NSF's decision on funding or declining to fund research proposals. The advice is not binding in NSF and NSF does not track exactly how recommendations from panels track to decisions.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

Not applicable. Please see answer directly above.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes  No  Not Applicable

**Agency Feedback Comments**

N/A

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

- Reorganized Priorities
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments

Other

### Action Comments

Proposal review panels provide advice only on specific proposal competitions. Thus, this advice informs the NSF decision to make awards or declinations only.

### Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

Yes

What is the estimated <u>Number</u> of grants reviewed for approval	204
What is the estimated <u>Number</u> of grants recommended for approval	64
What is the estimated <u>Dollar Value</u> of grants recommended for approval	\$37,705,390

### Grant Review Comments

Not all proposals are taken to review panels. Some reviews are done by ad-hoc review only. Both are acceptable forms of merit review within NSF.

### How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Access Comments

N/A