



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
2415 EISENHOWER AVENUE
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314**

**Office of the Assistant Director
Directorate for Geosciences**

September 14, 2021

Dr. Jacqueline E. Dixon 140
7th Avenue South
University of South Florida
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Dr. Dixon:

Thank you for submitting the report of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Division of Earth Science (EAR), which was held June 20-24, 2021. Both the COV report and the NSF response will be presented to the NSF Advisory Committee for Geosciences (AC-GEO) at their October 2021 meeting. Once approved by AC-GEO, the report and response will be public.

I sincerely appreciate the time and energy that you and each member of the COV dedicated to this process. NSF and the Earth sciences community will benefit greatly from your thorough and thoughtful analysis of EAR. I was pleased to hear that the COV finds EAR programs to be well managed and proactive in their strategic planning. I also thank you for the constructive recommendations for improvements, especially for Merit Review Processes and for advancing Belonging, Accessibility, Justice, Equity, and Inclusion (BAJEDI) principles. Your insights and recommendations will help EAR and the Directorate for Geosciences balance both near and long-range strategic science and management objectives.

I recognize that the COV's contributions went far beyond the four-day virtual meeting. The many hours of advance work, reviewing EAR proposals and other pertinent background information, were clear from the informed discussion and insightful questions raised during the meeting. We owe you and all the members many thanks for mastering the Foundation's electronic business processes in the weeks leading up to the COV meeting.

Dr. Steven Goldstein, Division Director for Earth Sciences, has provided responses to your recommendations in the enclosed document.

Once again, thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Isern,
Alexandra R.

Digitally signed by Isern,
Alexandra R.
Date: 2021.09.10
18:44:35 -04'00'

Alexandra R. Isern
Assistant Director

cc: AC GEO Chair