

Recommendations from the Spring 2013 Meeting of the NSF Business Operations Advisory Committee

Title	Meeting Date	Recommendation	NSF Contact	Status	Explanation
Leveling Workload	Spring 2013	<p>The Committee was unanimous in its support for both the leveling of proposal deadlines and awards issuance. It was suggested that NSF begin with a directorate which is neutral in its opinion of the concept and demonstrate its efficacy of the concept. The Committee offered to assist NSF to develop a business case to promote the implementation of the idea. The Committee agreed to send a letter to Marty and Gene urging BFA to move forward as soon as possible and offering its participation in the rollout.</p>	Karen Tiplady; Lori Wiley	Closed	<p>The Committee sent the above referenced letter on May 30, 2013. NSF has accepted the Committee's advice and is moving forward with both the leveling of proposal deadlines and awards issuance in all Directorates.</p>
NSF Strategic Plan and Linkage to Employee Performance Plans	Spring 2013	<p>The Committee commends NSF staff for: 1) holding Town Hall and Poster sessions to solicit feedback on the Strategic Plan Objectives; and 2) and for doubling the "performance" staff to support the PIO.</p> <p>The new strategic planning requirements under GPRAMA are much more demanding and require more clear linkages to performance measurement and evaluation than before. Cascading alignment from strategic objectives and performance goals to performance appraisals will be very difficult.</p> <p>The committee suggested that NSF use an independent facilitator to hold focus groups of more senior staff to solicit ideas on how to do this. It is critical for the NSF top leadership to embrace evaluation as a mission support function and to place a high priority on the new Chief Evaluation Officer they plan to hire.</p>	Judith Sunley; Pam O'Neil	Closed	<p>NSF's new strategic plan was released in March with the President's budget and is now available on the NSF web site. NSF is now in the process of process of completing Strategic Reviews in order to assess how NSF is progressing toward our Strategic Goals and Objectives.</p> <p>NSF is also in the process of developing guidance on employee performance plan linkages to the new NSF Strategic Plan, at all levels. Timing means that this will likely not be fully effective until mid-year for GWF performance plans and for FY 15 performance plans for SES personnel.</p>
Virtual Meetings	Spring 2013	<p>The Committee recommended that we have a face-to-face meeting in the fall of 2013 and that we consider having one or two virtual meetings between now and then. It is important that the topics be matched to the meeting format.</p>	Jeff Rich; Charisse Carney-Nunes	Closed	<p>Overtaken by the shutdown. Committee did hold one subsequent virtual subcommittee meeting and plans to adopt the recommended philosophy for the foreseeable future.</p>