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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

OCT - 6 2003

Dr. Len Pietrafesa
Interim Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board
Director of External Affairs
College of Physical & Mathematical Sciences
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina 27695-8201

Dear Dr. Pietrafesa:

I request the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Science Advisory Board (SAB) conduct a review of NOAA Research for the purpose of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of its research enterprise. The review will provide findings and recommendations that will be used by NOAA to enhance its research organization and connectivity to operational activities. Specific instructions to the review panel, hereafter referred to as the NOAA Research Review Team, or Review Team, are contained in the enclosed Terms of Reference, "Strategy to Respond to Congressional Language Pertaining to the NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research."

I propose an Ad Hoc Working Group of the SAB, consisting of five members, which will be disbanded after the review. I request your concurrence on the suggested panel members. These are distinguished individuals who represent a diverse range of expertise and perspectives on the organization, structure and management of research. Three of the members are past or future members of the SAB. I further propose that the panel be chaired by Dr. Moore.

We have contacted Dr. Berrien Moore III, Dr. Richard D. Rosen, Dr. Richard W. Spinrad, Dr. Warren Washington, and RADM Richard West, and they are willing and able to serve on the Review Team.

Berrien Moore III

Dr. Moore is a Professor of Systems Research and has been the Director of the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space at the University of New Hampshire since 1987. Actively involved on panels and committees at the National Academy of Science, he ended his Chairmanship of the National Academy's Committee on Global Change Research with the publication of "Global Environmental Change: Research Pathways for the Next Decade" in 1999. From January 1998 through January 2003, Professor Moore served as Chair of the overarching Scientific Committee of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and also served as a lead author within the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Third Assessment Report. In July 2001 he chaired the Global Change Open Science Conference in Amsterdam and is one of the four architects of the Amsterdam Declaration on Global Change. Professor Moore is the author of numerous scholarly publications on the carbon cycle and related topics and over the years has been called upon by the U.S. Congress to give testimony on the results of research regarding the carbon cycle and global climate change.

THE ADMINISTRATOR



Warren Washington

Dr. Washington is an internationally recognized expert in atmospheric science and climate research, specializing in computer modeling of the Earth's climate, and has published more than 100 papers in professional journals. He is a senior scientist and head of the Climate Change Research Section in the Climate and Global Dynamics Division at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and is the current Chair of the National Science Board. In 1999 he was elected by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Board of Trustees as a member of the corporation for a three-year term; in 2000 he was appointed a member of the Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee by the U.S. Secretary of Energy; and in February 2002 he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering "for pioneering the development of coupled climate models, their use on parallel supercomputing architectures, and their interpretation."

Richard Rosen

Dr. Richard Rosen is the incoming Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He previously served as Vice President and Chief Scientist of the Research and Development Division of Atmospheric and Environmental Research, Inc. Dr. Rosen is a Senior Lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and past President of the American Meteorological Society. He has published over 60 scientific papers on many different aspects of large-scale atmospheric behavior.

Richard Spinrad

Dr. Spinrad is the Assistant Administrator of the National Ocean Service. Before joining NOAA, he served as Technical Director in the Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy, where he served as the senior civilian technical advisor to the Navy's meteorological and oceanographic command (METOC). Dr. Spinrad had previously served as Executive Director for Research and Education at the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE). He has worked as a research scientist and is the past President of Sea Tech, Inc., a major manufacturer of oceanographic sensors. Dr. Spinrad received a Ph.D. in marine geology from Oregon State University. He has published more than 50 technical articles and is the editor of one textbook and several special issues of marine-oriented journals. He serves as Editor-in-Chief of Oceanography magazine and has been an elected member of the Council of The Oceanography Society. Dr. Spinrad also serves on the faculty of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Richard West

Rear Admiral West is President of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE). Before joining CORE, RADM West served as Oceanographer and Navigator of the Navy. He held a variety of ship and shore commands during his naval service, including Commanding Officer of the Surface Warfare Officers School. RADM West graduated from the University of Rochester, receiving his commission through the ROTC program. He holds Masters degrees in management and national security.

NOAA Research headquarters staff will work with you and the SAB as needed to plan and conduct the review. Administrative and technical support for the review will be provided by Mary Anne Whitcomb at (301)713-2454, extension 173. Please contact Michael Uhart at (301) 713-9121, extension 159, for any issues regarding the SAB.

Sincerely,



Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans
and Atmosphere

Enclosure

cc: (w/enclosure) J. Kelly
S. Rayder
L. Koch
M. Uhart