



CHARTER
of the
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL SCIENCES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Subcommittee on Physical Sciences (PSSC) is hereby reestablished by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Committee on Science (CoS).

B. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the PSSC is to advise and assist the CoS and the NSTC on U.S. policies, procedures, and plans in the physical sciences. As such, and to the extent permitted by law, the PSSC will define and coordinate Federal efforts in the physical sciences, identify emerging opportunities, stimulate international cooperation, and foster the development of the physical sciences. The PSSC will also explore ways in which the Federal government can increase the overall effectiveness and productivity of its investment in physical sciences research, especially with regard to issues that cut across agency boundaries. The PSSC will strive to enhance the Federal R&D enterprise by embracing diversity, recognizing that inclusion of a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives is critical to achieving robust intellectual dialogue.

C. Functions

The functions of the PSSC are to:

1. Survey current efforts and priority areas with respect to Federal investments in the physical sciences annually, in order to facilitate interagency communication, coordination, and collaboration;
2. Assess major U.S. and international efforts in physical sciences research and, to the extent permitted by law, explore mechanisms for international collaboration;
3. Define broad priority areas for future Federal investments in the physical sciences;
4. Respond to specific charges from the CoS related to this charter; and
5. Interface with other NSTC bodies on issues of common interest.

Through its Co-chairs, the PSSC will recommend actions on major policy issues to the CoS for approval.

D. Membership

The following NSTC departments and agencies are represented on the PSSC:

- Department of Commerce;
- Department of Defense;
- Department of Energy (Co-Chair);
- Department of Health and Human Services;
- Environmental Protection Agency;
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Co-Chair); and
- National Science Foundation (Co-Chair).

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President are also represented on the PSSC:

- Office of Management and Budget; and
- Office of Science and Technology Policy (Co-Chair).

Cooperating departments and agencies shall include such other Executive organizations, components of the intelligence community, departments, and agencies as the Co-Chairs may designate.

E. Private Sector Interface

The PSSC may work with the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) to secure appropriate private sector advice, and will recommend to the CoS and/or the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology the nature of any additional private-sector advice needed to accomplish its mission. The PSSC may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

F. Termination Date

Unless renewed by the Co-Chairs of the CoS prior to its expiration, the PSSC shall terminate no later than June 30, 2017.

G. Determination

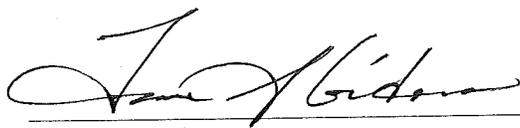
I hereby determine that the reestablishment of the Subcommittee on Physical Sciences is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:



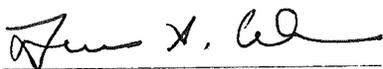
Jo Handelsman
Co-Chair, Committee on Science of the NSTC, and
Associate Director for Science
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President

12/15/15
Date



France Córdoba
Co-Chair, Committee on Science of the NSTC, and
Director, National Science Foundation

Nov. 23, 2015
Date



Francis Collins
Co-Chair, Committee on Science of the NSTC, and
Director, National Institutes of Health

Dec-1, 2015
Date