

ASCR Response to the Report of the ASCR Committee of Visitors Review of the Base Applied Mathematics Research Program

Date of COV: May 12 & 13, 2010

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COV Recommendation	Program Response
Efficacy and quality of the processes used to solicit, review, recommend and document application and proposal actions	
The committee recommends that further consideration be given to improving the level of outreach as regards to new funding opportunities. The COV is aware that the program usually has a very small window to accept proposals and that this is caused by rules concerning new starts during Continuing Resolutions, government fiscal years, etc. We would like to see the DOE explore a more flexible approach so that the proposal acceptance window could be broadened and thereby enhance the program's ability to attract proposals from a broader cross section of the scientific community.	ASCR agrees with this recommendation. Solicitations are announced on the ASCR Web page and planned targeted solicitations are announced at technical conferences in advance of the solicitation whenever possible. ASCR will pursue extending outreach by creating an Applied Mathematics distribution list, pending Office of Science approval, where investigators can sign-up to learn about updates and opportunities. ASCR must follow DOE guidelines under Continuing Resolution and other internal DOE deadlines, such as the deadline for grant packages.
Proposal project descriptions should be limited to 15 pages.	ASCR agrees with this recommendation. Applied Mathematics targeted solicitations will limit project descriptions to 15 pages. Office of Science sets the page limit for proposals submitted to the Annual Notice Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Finance Assistance Program.
The merit review criteria for large multi-investigator proposals should include an evaluation that ensures that the elements of the proposed research are appropriately integrated, coordinated and synergistic, as is the case with other DOE activities such as SciDAC and the EFRCs.	ASCR agrees with this recommendation. Integration, coordination and/or synergy of the proposed research will be evaluated within the DOE Merit Review Criteria as specified in 10 CFR 605.10
Actions should be taken to accelerate the processing of approved grants.	ASCR agrees with this recommendation. In FY10, Office of Science has been working closely with the DOE grants office. The time to award has improved significantly.
Efficacy and quality of the processes used to monitor active awards, projects and programs	
Explicit guidelines should be instituted for progress reports, including length and a clear description of the information that should be in the report. For example, all PIs should list publications, presentations, awards, and patents	ASCR agrees with this recommendation. Explicit guidelines for progress reports will be instituted for all Applied Mathematics projects. ASCR must follow guidance within the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist in the

<p>attributable to the project. The metrics for impact (awards, impact on scientific community (not only on mathematics), DOE impact, publications, presentations, etc.) should also be clearly stated and explained.</p>	<p>award agreement.</p>
<p>Within the boundaries defined by the DOE mission and available funding, comment on how the award process has affected the breadth and depth of portfolio elements</p>	
<p>Finding: The committee finds the portfolio to be exceptionally strong with regards to both depth and breadth. The balance of awards with respect to innovation, risk and interdisciplinary research appears to be appropriate. The committee was very impressed with the long-term perspective of the DOE applied mathematics program and its simultaneous agility at funding new program areas.</p> <p>Recommendation: The committee is very impressed and has nothing to recommend in this area.</p>	<p>We thank the committee for this finding and recommendation.</p>
<p>Within the boundaries defined by DOE missions and available funding, comment on how the award process has affected the national and international standing of the program with regard to other applied mathematics research programs that are also focused on the demands of high performance scientific computing and analysis of petascale datasets</p>	
<p>Finding: The DOE Applied Mathematics program has been, and continues to be, of extremely high quality and standing, both nationally and internationally. A great strength of the program is the willingness it has demonstrated to invest in projects with a longer-term perspective than is possible at most U.S. agencies, enabling the support of breakthrough research and ensuring its success and eventual adoption.</p> <p>Recommendation: The committee is very impressed. We recommend to continue along the lines noted above.</p>	<p>We thank the committee for this finding. ASCR agrees with this recommendation.</p>