

Basic Energy Sciences (BES) Response to the Report of the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee Committee of Visitors (COV) Review of the BES Chemical Sciences, Geosciences, and Biosciences Division

Date of COV: April 30 – May 2, 2014

Date of Response: September 24, 2014

Program Points of Contact: Harriet Kung (BES) and Tanja Pietrass (CSGB)

	COV General Recommendation/Finding	BES Response
#1	The COV strongly recommends a substantial increase in the funding for Program Officers to travel to national and international conferences, as well as visit the laboratories of researchers in their programs, to broaden participation in the BES programs and ensure that the research remains at the forefront of the field.	BES agrees with the importance of this recommendation and will execute it within allocated travel budgets and priorities. BES cautions that the overall SC travel funding has been constrained in recent years in accordance with federal guidelines in travel funding reduction (www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2012/m-12-12.pdf).
#2	The COV recommends the continued use of encouraging preliminary statements of potential research projects as a mechanism for Program Managers to provide rapid feedback to potential principal investigators prior to the submission of full proposals.	BES concurs with this recommendation, and is committed to the continued use of preliminary statements of research projects as an effective and efficient tool to screen projects for programmatic fit.
#3	The COV recommends that the full implementation of the Portfolio Analysis and Management System be completed as soon as possible to allow analysis of data related to the reviewing process and demographics of the BES programs.	BES concurs with this recommendation. Phased integration of the Portfolio Analysis and Management System is continuously adding capability. BES cautions that while demographic data provide valuable information to assess portfolio diversity, reporting of such characteristics by the PI and reviewer communities is, by law, voluntary.
#4	The COV recommends that BES execute a strategic planning	BES concurs with this recommendation. The CSGB

	session at the Division level to evaluate current directions and identify new opportunities and synergies thereby facilitating collaboration among the programs and cooperative development of the portfolios.	Division is committed to conducting such an activity in fiscal year 2015.
--	--	---