



NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

RESOLUTION ON NSF AND THE NATIONAL INTEREST

WHEREAS, the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 created the Foundation to serve the national interest, its mission being “to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare, to secure the national defense, and for other purposes;”

WHEREAS, the Foundation’s Merit Review Criteria (Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts) were constructed to ensure that Foundation-funded research fulfills this statutory mission;

WHEREAS, the Foundation has recently initiated, through Important Notice 137,¹ new policies to clarify that the abstract for an award must “serve as the public justification for NSF funding by articulating how the project serves the national interest;”

Therefore, be it **RESOLVED** that the National Science Board (Board) strongly endorses the principle that all Foundation-funded research and education must further the national interest by contributing to the Foundation’s mission.

The Board recognizes and supports the Director’s continuing efforts to ensure that all Foundation practices and awards reflect this principle. The Board requests that the Director provide a progress update within one year of the approval of this resolution regarding the implementation of Important Notice 137.

¹ Important Notice 137, January 13, 2015, “New Steps to Enhance Transparency and Accountability at the National Science Foundation,” <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/in137/in137.jsp>