

Dear Colleagues,

As I wrote some weeks ago, I want to keep you all informed of the progress and plans for the Senior Review. First, I want to thank all of you who replied to our call for nominations. We have folded all of those suggestions into a candidate list and are beginning to approach people to serve on the committee. Again, I hope everyone that we contact will give very serious consideration to participating in this vital undertaking.

As of this past weekend we have in hand the input from the facilities that we asked for back in May. It is clear that our facilities managers have given this a lot of thought and effort, including interaction with their user community. We are now studying this material and will be meeting with the leadership of each facility to clarify details, both of their input and of our plans.

I pledged in my last message that we would provide ample opportunity for community input. To this end Eileen Friel (our Executive Officer) and I would like to have a number (perhaps four) of "town meetings" across the country over the next few months. These will be a chance for us to interact face-to-face with you, answering questions and listening to your input and concerns first hand. If possible, I would like these to be full-day events, with a plenary session in the morning, followed in the afternoon by the opportunity for individuals to meet with us, one-on-one. Hopefully, depending on schedules, some "local" members of the committee might also attend. We would like to receive invitations from institutions (or groups of institutions) willing to host such town meetings. We think they would be most useful if they were "regional" in nature so that each trip for us would reach as many of you as possible. By "host" we mean only that one would provide a venue and coordinate a time with groups in your area. The period that we have in mind is essentially from now through the end of the year, though it would be useful to have one or two before the first meeting of the committee, which might be towards the end of October. Please let us know.

Finally, we are also in the process of establishing, and will advertise through the AAS, a web page to which the community can post input, opinions, concerns, that they would like put in front of the committee. Again we will work with the chair to assure that the format and nature of the input is as germane and useful as possible.

Sincerely,

Wayne

G. W. Van Citters  
Director, Division of Astronomical Sciences  
National Science Foundation  
Arlington, VA 22230  
703-292-4908  
gvancitt@nsf.gov