



UPDATE FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL JOINT COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS

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THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

July 9, 2019

NSTC Joint Committee on Research Environments July 2019 Update

On Tuesday, July 9, 2019, The White House hosted the second meeting of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Joint Committee on Research Environments (JCORE). The NSTC [launched](#) JCORE in May 2019 to address the most pressing challenges facing America's research and scientific community. JCORE is spearheaded by the NSTC Committee on Science and the Committee on the Science and Technology (S&T) Enterprise, and is made up of four Subcommittees:

- The Subcommittee on Safe and Inclusive Research Environments
- The Subcommittee on Rigor and Integrity in Research
- The Subcommittee on Research Security
- The Subcommittee on Reducing Administrative Burdens

Dr. Kelvin K. Droegemeier, Director of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and Chloe Kontos, NSTC Executive Director, convened the meeting and led discussions. Senior R&D officials from across the Federal Government highlighted recent efforts to ensure that American research and development activities reflect and contribute to the highest ideals of America's values, and that American scientists, students, technologists, and engineers are afforded safe, productive, and innovative research environments.

Dr. Droegemeier announced the latest addition to the OSTP team who will help guide the efforts of the Joint Committee, Dr. Lisa Nichols, Assistant Director for Academic Engagement. During the meeting, the Subcommittees provided an update on its mission and future efforts. Each Subcommittee is comprised of R&D officials from the relevant Federal agencies.

The Subcommittees represent some of the most critical areas for action to ensure America's researchers, scientists, and engineers can reach their full potential. The White House looks forward to further efforts to unleash discovery and innovation across the S&T enterprise, working with industry, academia, and nonprofits to ensure continued American leadership in science and technology.

The Subcommittee on Research Security

In recognition of the open and collaborative nature of the U.S. research enterprise, The JCORE Subcommittee on Research Security aims to protect America's researchers from undue foreign influence without compromising our values or our ability to maintain the openness and integrity of our innovation ecosystem. The Subcommittee discussed its focus on coordinating Federal efforts to effectively communicate and provide outreach to academic and research institutions, develop guidance and best practices for academic and research institutions, and standardize conflict of interest and commitment disclosure requirements and enforcement.

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The Subcommittee on Safe and Inclusive Research Environments

The JCORE Subcommittee on Safe and Inclusive Research Environments is the primary coordinating body for Federal agencies to share practices, challenges, and activities to combat harassment of all types in the research environment. During the July 9 meeting, they discussed ways to address persistent cultural drivers of harassment and other behaviors that affect the safety and inclusivity of our research environments. The Subcommittee confirmed its commitment to build upon previous and current interagency or agency-specific efforts, and to engage with external stakeholders such as professional societies and institutional leaders.

The Subcommittee on Reducing Administrative Burdens

The JCORE Subcommittee discussed planned initiatives that are consistent with statutory requirements and the needs of the research community; will have a broad impact and result in significant reductions in administrative work and costs; and will involve greater outreach and consultation with the research community and transparency of Research Business Model efforts. JCORE members also discussed progress on related efforts led by the White House Office of Management and Budget, including the President's Management Agenda Cap Goal 8, and National Institutes of Health efforts under the 21st Century Cures Act.

The Subcommittee on Rigor and Integrity in Research

The JCORE Subcommittee on Rigor and Integrity in Research recognizes that trustworthy research, with findings that are replicable and reproducible, maximizes the return on Federally-funded R&D investments. The Subcommittee seeks to address concerns over institutional incentives and systemic practices that undermine rigor and integrity. During the meeting, the subcommittee identified areas to promote baseline policies across Federal agencies and work with external stakeholders to share recommendations and best practices.

JCORE Members

Co-Chair: Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier

Co-Chair: Dr. Francis Collins, Director, National Institutes of Health

Co-Chair: Dr. France Córdova, Director, National Science Foundation

Co-Chair: Dr. Walt Copan, Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology

Co-Chair: Paul Dabbar, Undersecretary for Science, Department of Energy

Andre Iancu, Director, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Mary Miller, Principal Deputy, Director of Defense Research and Engineering for Research and Technology, Department of Defense

Dr. Deborah Frincke, Director of R&D, National Security Administration

Jim Bridenstine, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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About the National Science and Technology Council

The NSTC was established by Executive Order on November 23, 1993. This Cabinet-level Council is the principal means within the Executive Branch to coordinate science and technology policy across the diverse entities that make up the Federal research and development enterprise. The Office of Science and Technology Policy Director serves as the Chair of the Council and provides leadership across the NSTC and interagency.

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