

Public Comment at FEAC Meeting  
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Thank you for this opportunity to share some thoughts on your upcoming work on the FES strategic plan and on workforce development

I serve as the deputy director of the DIII-D National Fusion Program, though I am an LLNL employee on long term assignment at General Atomics. I have previously chaired a FESAC sub panel: the Toroidal Alternates Panel, and co-chaired the ReNeW activity, and served on a number of other panels over the years.

The charge for the Strategic Planning panel is very broad in scope and therefore, technical content.

So, given your instructions on Conflict of Interest and sub panel membership, it will be important for you to develop a process to obtain relevant information and advice; none of us can be expert in everything. White papers or publications by themselves are insufficient, as we all know from our own experience reading technical papers outside our own area of expertise. Nothing beats dialogue with, and explanation by experts.

So, I recommend two things for the subpanel process:

1. Develop a process that provides opportunity to meet with and hear from relevant experts to help you

- a. define the significant unknowns
- b. describe what research is required
- c. evaluate what resources/facilities are need to accomplish the research

The input process should also be realistic in it's time allocation: individual scientists are fundamentally different than major facilities which have a large mission scope; interactive time should be adjusted accordingly.

2. Develop an iterative and interactive process, much like we do with our own research. Rarely is our first version of a talk the final version. Feedback and iteration always makes the final product better.

With regard to the Workforce Development, I would similarly encourage the sub panel to invite the larger facilities to provide their perspective, and again, make it an interactive process. Speaking for DIII-D, you should feel free to ask questions and, ask further questions if you don't understand or take issue with the first set of answers. You may even want to have some members visit particular facilities for discussion.