CSRAC Reviewer Recognition Working Group

CSR Advisory Council

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Goal

Identify actions NIH can take to change the culture around peer review service, with the goal of ensuring that participation is recognized as prestigious and a valued service to the community, by researchers themselves and, importantly, by the institutions that employ them.
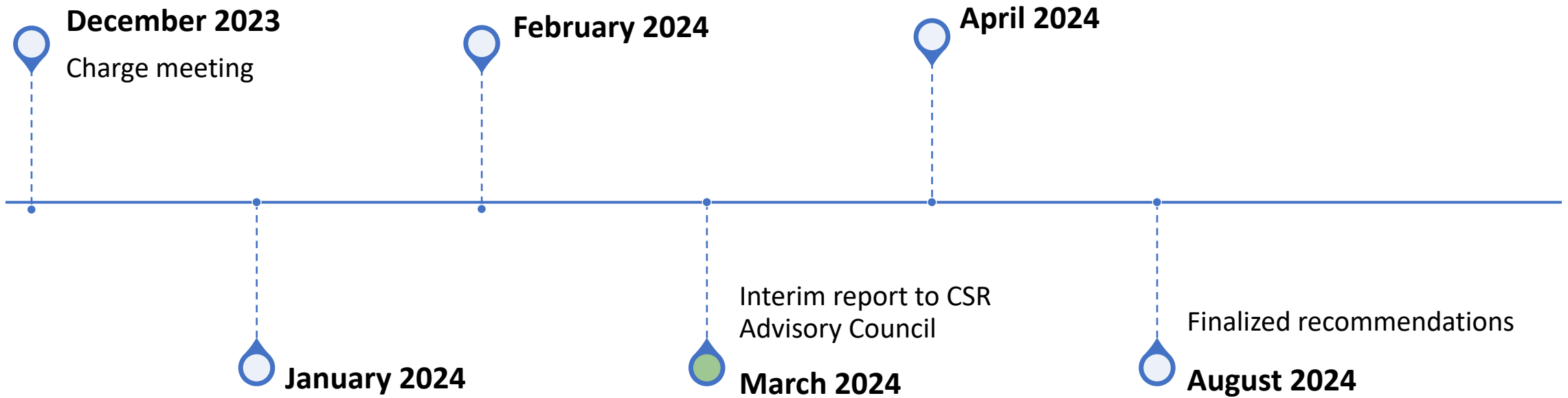
Prestigious

Service to the community

Benefit to institutions

Timeline of Discussions

December 2023
Charge meeting

February 2024

April 2024

January 2024

Interim report to CSR Advisory Council

March 2024

Finalized recommendations

August 2024

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Initial Discussions of the Working Group

- **Possible benefits to institutions in having their faculty serve on NIH review panels**

- **Variability in how institutions might value service by their faculty**

- **Data that would demonstrate to institutions and reviewers the value of peer review**

- **Outreach and communications that could raise awareness of the value of participating in peer review**

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Recommendations

Communications with Institutions

1. **Notify institutions of faculty service**

   - NIH should send a letter at the end of each calendar year to institutions with a list of all faculty serving in that calendar year.

   - Include: details of service, highlight the value of peer review (to the institution, to the scientific community)

   - Recipients should be institutional leadership and the reviewers themselves

2. **CSR should engage with the agencies that evaluate and rank institutions** (e.g. Association of American Universities) on peer review service and peer-review service-related topics.

3. **Author an annual blog post with data on reviewer participation, acknowledge and thank reviewers** for their service

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Broader Outreach

4. **Highlight individual reviewers or chairs** – e.g. publish profiles of reviewers, highlighting the value of review service to the reviewer personally and professionally.

    -   Share communications with institution PR offices

5. **Continue outreach at conferences and scientific events** and continue or increase focus on attendees from a range of research institutions, including those who have relatively low NIH funding levels

6. **Expand outreach efforts to encourage institutions to host seminars by current peer reviewers at their institution** on the value of the process

7. **Encourage institutions to integrate value of NIH peer review as a topic into academic faculty development events**

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Understanding Perceived Benefits of Participation

8. **Conduct analyses to understand the links between peer review service and funding success**

   - How does service in CSR's Early Career Reviewer program affect success? Subsequent success in competing for an R01? Eventual standing membership on NIH study sections?

   - Are there correlations between review service and current/future success rates? Does review service correlate with a successful renewal?

9. **Assess reviewers' perceptions about the personal and professional value of peer review service through a survey** immediately after service

Individual Incentives

10. Consider establishing an **award for a study section chair**

11. Provide a **certificate for service for chairs** that is distinct from that for service as a member

12. **Extend continuous submission privileges** to standing members and chairs for the duration of the calendar year after they have rotated off their service

Questions/Discussion

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