The Science Oversight Committee (SOC) draws upon the long-term engagement of its members, coupled with recognition of the science drivers for and design of the OOI, to provide program oversight on matters impacting science requirements, data delivery and science user engagement. Further it serves the important role of promoting outreach to the community from within the program, in part by supporting workshops and user engagement activities (e.g. informational webinars). Membership of the SOC will include the OOI lead PI and PI/PS’s from the four Implementing Organizations (IOs), providing knowledge of the science requirements for Global, Cabled, Endurance, and Pioneer Arrays, and the OOI Cyberinfrastructure. The NSF/OCE Program Officers responsible for the OOI and the Chair and Administrator of the Ocean Observatories Initiative Facility Board (OOIFB) are ex officio members. Other subject matter experts may be invited to participate as deemed appropriate by the SOC members. The SOC chair is the OOI PI.

The SOC is charged with:

- Providing guidance and perspective on the performance of the OOI Marine and Cyber infrastructure with respect to addressing the scientific and operational aspects of the program.

- Reaching out to inform and engage the science community in discussions about the OOI, its successes, shortcomings, and options for improvement. These activities include representing the OOI at selected science, engineering, and education meetings; organizing special sessions at meetings; organizing workshops; and advocating use of the OOI, including process studies and fieldwork at and near OOI sites.