Proposal Information	
Proposal Number	**0213495**
Proposal Title	**Variational Analysis and Control Theory - A conference in honor of Jack Warga**
Received on	**01/11/02**
Principal Investigator	**Qiji Zhu**
CO-PI(s)	**Boris Mordukhovich**
	Hector Sussmann
Institution	**Western Michigan Univ**

This Proposal has been Electronically Signed by the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR).

Program Information	
NSF Division	**DIVISION OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES**
Program Name	**APPLIED MATHEMATICS**
Program Officer	**Deborah Lockhart**
Telephone	**(703) 292-4858**
E-Mail	**dlockhar@nsf.gov**

Proposal Status

Status As of Today Dated: **07/12/02**
Our records indicate that a Final Project Report is due on Award Number **9803411** for **Hector Sussmann**. Please submit it immediately to the cognizant Program Officer to avoid delay in processing this proposal.This proposal has been declined by NSF. The Principal Investigator has been sent information about the review process and anonymous verbatim copies of reviewers' comments.

Comments from the cognizant Program Officer

PROGRAM OFFICER COMMENTS
for
DMS-0213495
PI: Qiji Zhu
Institution: Western Michigan University

Despite its strengths, your proposal is not being recommended for an award. An impressive group of solid and creative researchers, both junior and experienced, have submitted proposals; it simply is not possible to support them all. The Proposal Review Context statement presents some of the variety of compelling arguments for funding which distinguish the proposals recommended for awards.

While proposals in the Applied Mathematics Program are usually assessed by mail or panel review, in the case of conference proposals, external review is often waived. In the case of your proposal, such a waiver was used.

Much of the proposal is devoted to the history of, major results in, and past contributions of Professor Warga to control theory and variational analysis. The conference is being organized by recognized experts and the tentative list of speakers looks impressive. However, no information is given as to what specific topics these speakers will address. The proposal content focuses on honoring Professor Warga on his 80th birthday, but provides few specifics as to how the research agenda of the area will actually be advanced. It would have been helpful if the topics addressed by the speakers had been listed and if the specific current research thrusts of the conference had been identified. One positive feature of the proposal is that the organizers plan to give priority for partial participant support to "students, young researchers, minority and women participants" who will attend the meeting.

Unfortunately, I am led to recommending a declination for this proposal. One of the review criteria in the DMS program solicitation "Conferences, International Travel, Workshops and Special Years in Mathematical Sciences" (NSF 00-109) addresses "the potential impact of the proposed activity on fundamental advances in the given area(s) of the mathematical sciences and, where appropriate, the relevance of the mathematical sciences activity to other areas or disciplines." The practice of the Applied Mathematics Program has been to recommend funding for conferences that are primarily designed to advance a scientific agenda and to discuss problems of current and future interest. A conference that is designed only or primarily to honor a distinguished mathematician receives a lower priority for funding than those with a clearly stated and focused research agenda. I have shared this proposal with other colleagues in the Applied Mathematics Program and they concur with my conclusion. Given the concerns mentioned above, this proposal was not assigned as high a priority as that given to other proposals being considered this year by the Applied Mathematics Program.

Should you decide to submit a revised conference proposal, you may wish to consult the program solicitation "Conferences, International Travel, Workshops and Special Years in Mathematical Sciences" which may be found at:

http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf00109

Reviews
Your NSF program officer has not released the reviews of your proposal. If your program officer releases all of the reviews, you will be able to view your reviews below.
Please note that the Sponsored Research Office (or equivalent) at your organization will NOT be given the capability to view your reviews.

Context Statement
Division of Mathematical Sciences
Applied Mathematics Program

Proposal Review Context --- FY 2002

Proposals handled by the Applied Mathematics Program are usually assessed by mail review and/or panel review. The number of reviewers depends on the complexity of the proposal and the areas of expertise required. A recommendation for declination or award is not considered until two substantive reviews, and usually three or more reviews, are received. When reading reviews, please keep in mind that reviewers address their comments chiefly to the NSF, not necessarily to the investigators. Some reviews may contain irrelevant, insubstantive, or erroneous statements that were not used.

While reviewers' ratings are considered, the content of their reviews is more important in assessing the merits of each proposal. Different reviewers may offer insights into different aspects of a proposal (issues of problem formulation and approach, relevant work in other areas of mathematics, perspectives on the importance of a particular problem within the subarea of applied mathematics or in a broader context, relevance to applications or other disciplines). Reviewers' comments are considered in the context of other reviews they have provided. Thus average rating is not the determining factor in a recommendation; rather, a clear picture of each proposal's strengths and likely impact is sought.

Decisions about particular proposals are often difficult, and factors other than reviewer comments and ratings enter into them. For renewal applicants, often the program has additional information not available to reviewers, such as progress reports. Appropriate balance among subfields, the balance between new investigators and those previously supported, contribution to initiatives or to interdisciplinary efforts, effect on education and human resources development, the availability of other funding, the total amount of funds available to the program for new and renewal proposals, and Foundation policies are other important decision factors.

The hallmark of a successful proposal is one or more salient strengths. Usually this is reflected in high ratings, although not all reviewers give provocative but risky proposals the highest marks. It is no longer possible to fund all the meritorious proposals. Proposals recommended for award, as distinguished from other proposals of fundable quality, have a strong potential for impact in the field or in science more broadly. Taken collectively, the funded proposals present a balance across the dynamic and essential areas of the discipline. This means that recommendations for award go beyond a simple ordering of proposals.

This year Applied Mathematics expects to review about 320 competing proposals, many of them of an interdisciplinary or group nature, and to fund about a third of them. As always, this will include a substantial number of awards that do not provide salary for the investigators.

Please use the **back navigation** button to return to the previous page