



Contact: Annette Butler
(202) 254-4496
TDD/Videophone Users
Please Call Via Relay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 12, 2014

**U.S. MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD (MSPB) TO
CONSIDER RESEARCH AGENDA AT OPEN MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2014**

On Tuesday, September 16, 2014, MSPB will conduct an open meeting on the proposed FY 2015-2018 research agenda from its Office of Policy and Evaluation (OPE). The proceedings will take place at 10:00 a.m. at the National Courts Building, Room 203, 717 Madison Place NW, Washington, DC 20439. See [75 FR 47683, August 14, 2014](#). The last Sunshine Act meeting for this purpose was in 2010.

The MSPB has statutory responsibility to conduct objective, non-partisan studies that assess and evaluate Federal merit systems policies, operations, and practices. See [5 U.S.C. 1204\(a\)\(3\)](#). Earlier this year, MSPB [invited](#) the public and other stakeholders to provide feedback and ideas for the research agenda. During this meeting, there will be a discussion about MSPB missions, the studies function, current and planned projects as well as the development of the research agenda. In addition, several key stakeholders will present their views on the proposed research agenda at the meeting.

Organized into five broad areas or related research, the proposed topics include:

PROPOSED RESEARCH TOPICS 2015 - 2018

Defending Merit

1. Adverse Action Rules, Regulations, and Practices
2. Employment of Persons with Disabilities in the Federal Government
3. Freedom from Prohibited Personnel Practices: A Vision Achieved?
4. Preventing Nepotism in the Federal Government
5. Reprisal for Protected Activity
6. Sexual Harassment in Federal Workplaces -- An Update
7. Due Process Rights of Federal Employees
8. Effect of 2014 Legislation Concerning Senior Executives in the Department of Veterans Affairs
9. Whistleblowing After the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act

Recruitment and Hiring

10. Federal Hiring: Reformed or In Need of Reform?
11. How Do Selecting Officials Make Hiring Decisions?
12. Identifying the Best Qualified Candidates for Federal Positions
13. Recruiting and Retaining Employees in STEMM Occupations
14. Supervisory and Managerial Probation: Final Hurdle or Formality?

Pay and Performance Management

15. A “Performance Review” of the Performance Review
16. Federal Pay Systems -- Experience Outside the General Schedule
17. Position Classification: Purposes and Practices
18. The Incidence and Impact of Poor Performance

Supervision and Leadership

19. Dual Career Paths for Supervisors and Technical Specialists
20. Improving the Selection of Supervisors
21. Performance Evaluation in the Senior Executive Service: Leading by Example?
22. Senior Executives: Learning from Success

Building an Effective Workforce

23. Flexible Work
24. Technology and the Federal Workforce
25. The Federal Job as a “Calling”
26. The Human Resources Workforce: Rising to the Challenge?
27. What Do Employees Seek and Receive from Federal Service?
28. Workforce Reshaping: Do Agencies have the Right Tools?
29. Workforce and Succession Planning: Is the Exercise Producing Results?

Focus on the U.S. Office of Personnel Management

30. Hiring Reform Initiatives and Outcomes
31. The Civil Service Reform Act Turns 40
32. USAHire -- An Initiative to Improve Entry-Level Hiring

Additional details about the proposed research agenda are available on MSPB’s website at <http://www.mspb.gov/sunshineactmeeting/>. The MSPB also will make a recording of the open meeting available on its website. The public is welcome to attend for the sole purpose of observation. Persons with disabilities who require reasonable accommodation to participate in this event should direct the request to MSPB’s Director of Equal Employment Opportunity at (202) 254-4405 or V/TDD 1-800-877-8339 (Federal Relay Service). Please make any requests as soon as possible in advance of the meeting.

The public still can provide comments on the proposed research agenda by e-mailing research.agenda@mspb.gov. The MSPB will accept comments through October 16, 2014.

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency whose mission is to protect the Merit System Principles and promote an effective Federal workforce free of Prohibited Personnel Practices.