

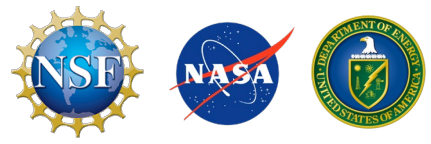
Astronomy & Astrophysics Advisory Committee - Charge, FACA, and Conflicts of Interest -

Jan 26, 2021

Martin Still | Division of Astronomical Sciences | NSF Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences

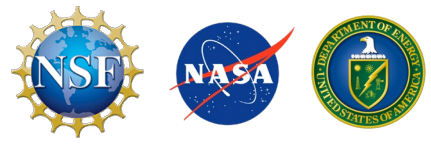
Image: Carina Nebula | from GEMS on Gemini-South | Credit: Hartigan, Downes & Isella (2020)





Purpose of this Meeting

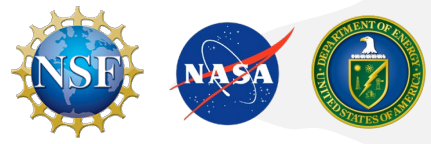
- Assess and make recommendations regarding NSF, NASA, DOE coordination and implementation of the Decadal Survey.
- The Committee will hear presentations of current programming by representatives from NSF, NASA, DOE and other agencies relevant to astronomy and astrophysics to:
 - discuss current and potential areas of cooperation between the agencies, and;
 - formulate recommendations for continued and new areas of cooperation and mechanisms for achieving them.



This AAAC Meeting is a FACA Committee

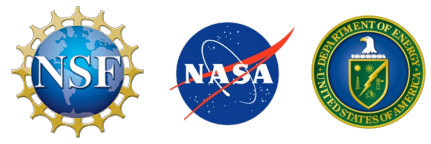
- Through enactment of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972 (Public Law 92-463*), the U.S. Congress formally recognized the merits of seeking the advice and assistance of our nation's citizens to the executive branch of government.
- FACA was enacted to ensure that advice given to federal government agencies by groups of individuals that include non-federal employees is relevant, objective, and accessible to the public.

*<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-86/pdf/STATUTE-86-Pg770.pdf#page=1>



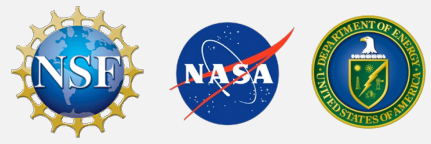
FACA Procedures for AAAC

- NSF sponsors the meeting and provides a *Designated Federal Official*
- Meetings are open to the public and announced in the Federal Register and on the AAAC website: <https://www.nsf.gov/mps/ast/aaac.jsp>
- The website includes
 - Charter
 - Membership
 - Subcommittees
 - Annual reports
 - Agenda
 - Minutes
 - Presentations
- Meeting attendance is recorded



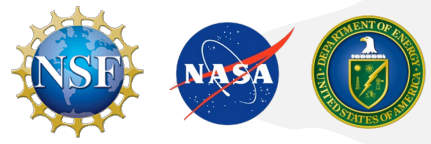
Conflicts of Interest

- Committee Members have a conflict of interest and should recuse themselves from offering advice if they:
 - are employed at an institution that would be affected by such advice
 - serve on the Board of Directors of an organization that has an interest in the advice
 - have a financial interest in any company/contractor that would be impacted by such advice
 - feel that they cannot be fully objective and unbiased, or that a reasonable person could question their objectivity



Other Ethics Considerations

- Do not disclose non-public, government information
- Do not use your public position for private gain in any way
- Do not solicit or accept gifts and favors from anyone who:
 - Seeks official action from, or conducts activities regulated by NSF, NASA, or DOE
 - Does, or seeks to do, business with NSF, NASA, or DOE
 - Has interests that may be substantially affected by this panel



Requirements for AAAC Members

- If you do identify a conflict of interest for a given topic, please announce it and refrain from participating in the discussion or in the writing of the relevant section of the annual report
- Committee members must not discuss the business of the committee outside of the meeting
- We appreciate your time and your advice!