Astronomy & Astrophysics Advisory Committee - Charge, FACA, and Conflicts of Interest June 2, 2021



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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 nonfederal employees is relevant, objective, and accessible to the public.







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







- 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!