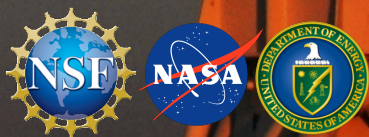


# Astronomy & Astrophysics Advisory Committee - Charge, FACA, and Conflicts of Interest -

January 25, 2022

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





# 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.



# THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

Advisory committees play an important role in shaping the programs and policies of the federal government.

Your deliberations and feedback, both collectively and as individuals, help our three federal agencies decide how to best use taxpayer dollars for their investment.

NSF, NASA, and DOE hope you find the experience interesting and fulfilling.



# THIS 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 objective and accessible to the public.

\*[https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE\\_86/pdf/STATUTE\\_86\\_Pg770.pdf#page\\_1](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. Portions of a meeting can be closed when the information being discussed is proprietary, would constitute an invasion of privacy, and/or would frustrate proposed agency actions.

The website includes:  
(<https://www.nsf.gov/mps/ast/aaac.jsp>)

- Charter
- Membership
- Subcommittees
- Annual reports
- Agenda
- Minutes
- Presentations



# FACA PROCEDURES FOR AAAC

Committee members must electronically sign in at the beginning of the meeting.

Meeting attendance is recorded.

Meeting minutes are created and maintained by NSF.

Committee members must not discuss the business of the committee outside of the meeting.



# CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND IMPARTIALITY

Committee Members have a conflict of interest or appearance of one 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 would be/has an interest in the advice;

Have a **financial interest in** a company, including a contractor that would be impacted by such advice;

Have any other affiliation that they **cannot be fully objective and unbiased**, or that another person could have reason to question their impartiality.



# GIFTS

Generally, do not solicit or accept gifts and favors from any “prohibited source” – anyone who:

Seeks official action from NSF;

Does, or seeks to do, business with NSF;

Conducts activities regulated by NSF;

Has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance of your official duties; or

Is an organization the majority of whose members are described above.

Exceptions: when it is clear that benefits have not been offered or enhanced because of your Government status, or gifts clearly motivated by family or personal friendship



# REQUIREMENTS FOR AAAC MEMBERS

Do not use your public position for private gain (whether your own or another's).

If you 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.

Do not discuss the business of the committee outside of the AAAC forum.

Committee members must not discuss the business of the committee outside of the meeting.

Do not use or disclose non-public Government information.





We appreciate your time and your advice.!

## QUESTIONS?

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