Astronomy & Astrophysics Advisory Committee

FACA & Conflicts of Interest
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 relevant, objective, and accessible to the public.
FACA Procedures for AAAC

• NSF sponsors 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

• This website includes charter, membership, subcommittees, and annual reports.

• Agenda, Minutes & Presentations are also posted here

• 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.

23-24 January 2020
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;
  • Does, or seeks to do, business with NSF;
  • Has interests that may be substantially affected by this panel
Requirements for AAAC Members

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

• 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.

• We appreciate your time and your advice!