
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.



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!

