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!