

2021 Current Fiscal Year Report: Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
National Science Foundation		2021	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee		13883	
4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	03/15/2005	03/15/2007	
8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date	
No			
9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?	
Continue	No	Not Applicable	
11. Establishment Authority	Statutory (Congress Created)		
12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
Sec. 23, P.L. 107-368	03/15/2003	Continuing	No
15. Description of Committee	Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board		
16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this FiscalYear		
17a. Open Meetings and Dates	17b. Closed	17c. Partially Closed	Other Activities
No Meetings	0	0	0

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00

19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)

0.00 0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

Advise the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Department of Energy (DOE) on selected issues within the field of astronomy and astrophysics that are of mutual interest and concern to the three agencies. Astronomy and astrophysics is understood to encompass observations and theoretical investigations of astronomical objects and phenomena, including the sun and solar-system bodies. Provide assessment of and recommendations concerning:- The identification of gaps and duplications between the three agencies in areas such as research, analysis programs, missions, observatories, facilities and archives.- The development of the strategic plan for the three agencies for astronomy and astrophysics.- Areas which may benefit from coordinated formulation, solicitation of proposals for research and/or hardware development and financial support.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Members are selected to be representative of the scientific areas encompassed by astronomy and astrophysics. Every effort is made to achieve a diverse membership with representation including individuals from underrepresented groups and different geographic regions. By legislation NSF and NASA appoint 4 members each, the Department of Energy appoints 3 members, and the Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) appoints 2 members.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

At least 4 meetings per year, as per charter - some by telecon.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

To provide analysis, recommendations, and viewpoints on issues of mutual interest to the three agencies. No other balanced forum exists.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A

21. Remarks

N/A

Designated Federal Officer

Ralph A Gaume Division Director AST

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
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Chanover, Nancy	07/01/2019	06/30/2022	New Mexico State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Connolly, Andrew	07/01/2018	06/30/2021	University of Washington	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dawson, Kyle	07/01/2019	06/30/2022	University of Utah	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dell'Antonio, Ian	07/01/2018	06/30/2021	Brown University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dodelson, Scott	07/01/2018	06/30/2021	Carnegie-Mellon University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kasliwal, Mansi	07/01/2018	06/30/2021	California Institute of Technology	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Leauthaud, Alexie	07/01/2020	06/30/2023	University of California, Santa Cruz	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Martens, Petrus	07/01/2018	06/30/2021	Georgia State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Meyer, Stephan	07/01/2019	06/30/2022	University of Chicago	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Natarajan, Priyamvada	07/01/2019	06/30/2022	Yale University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
O'Meara, John	07/01/2017	06/30/2021	WM Keck Observatory	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Shoemaker, Deidre	07/01/2019	06/30/2022	University of Texas at Austin	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 12

Narrative Description

Astronomy is undergoing a time of extraordinary scientific discovery and the exploration of some of the most exciting aspects of our universe: the nature of dark matter and dark energy in the Universe, the formation of galaxies at early times, the nature of massive black holes, the formation of stars and planetary systems, and the detection of planets like Earth around other stars. NASA, NSF, and DOE, together provide the opportunities for astronomical research that have allowed this nation to demonstrate its scientific and technological leadership. The framework that establishes this leadership comes from a series of decade-long plans issued every ten years from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Astronomy and Astrophysics Survey Committee. The AAAC monitors and reports on the implementation of the Decadal Survey, as well as other relevant NAS studies. In 2020 we are coming to the end of the current plan set by two NAS decadal surveys covering the decade after 2010: New Worlds, New Horizons in Astronomy and Astrophysics (released in 2010) and Vision and Voyages for Planetary Science in the Decade 2013-2022 (released in 2012). These NAS studies set up what has proved to be a decade of remarkable scientific opportunities. From the Decadal Surveys now in progress, the next NAS plans can confidently be expected to define another exciting decade. The diverse approach to astronomical research offered by NASA, NSF and DOE is key to the scientific success and public visibility of astrophysics, and remains central to the future success of astronomy. Joint programs between NASA, NSF and DOE,

implemented within a healthy scientific research budget, are also of great benefit to the nation's astronomy and astrophysics research enterprise. Drawing on the different strengths of the agencies enables the nation to realize greatly enhanced value from its investment in astronomy. The NAS Committee on the Organization and Management of Research in Astronomy and Astrophysics (COMRAA) recommended in 2002 the establishment of an advisory committee to deal with the increasingly important interfaces between the agencies involved in supporting astronomy and astrophysics. Support for this by the Executive Branch and Congress led to the establishment of the Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee (AAAC) to: 1) assess, and make recommendations regarding, the coordination of astronomy and astrophysics programs of NSF, NASA, and DOE; 2) assess, and make recommendations regarding, the status of the activities of NSF and NASA as they relate to the recommendations contained in the National Research Council's 2001 Decadal report, and the recommendations contained in subsequent National Research Council reports of a similar nature; and 3) issue an annual report to Congress and the agencies no later than March 15.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

Outcome Comments

Interagency cooperation and coordination

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000

\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000

Over \$10,000,000

Cost Savings Other



Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

22

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is the count of recommendations for the current Fiscal Year. 158 Recommendations received in total for the life of the committee. The recommendations and findings are provided in the annual report of the AAAC for the Fiscal Year. The recommendations are advice to the three agencies, NSF, NASA, and DOE.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

65%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

These recommendations are advisory in nature and it is up to the individual agencies to implement them. Percentages are given for the current Fiscal Year. The only recommendation not fully implemented was a recommendation to Congress regarding the importance of astronomy funding; response to such a recommendation is not under the control of the agencies. It should be noted that some of the recommendations are multi-year in nature, so full implementation of the recommendations does not necessarily imply that all activities are completed within a single year.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

These recommendations are advisory in nature and it is up to the individual agencies to implement them. As stated above, the recommendation not implemented was directed to Congress and is not under agency control.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

Each agency provides a report on activities at each AAAC meeting.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A