

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation

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1. Department or Agency

Department of State

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Historical
Diplomatic Documentation

3b. GSA

Committee No.

656

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

10/31/2024

6. Expected Renewal Date

10/31/2026

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency

Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b.

Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

.22 U.S.C. §4356

13. Effective Date

10/28/1991

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory
Board

16a. Total

Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a.

Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current Next
FY 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. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee ensures the Foreign Relations series compliance as required by statute and the timely and full implementation of 22 USC 4351, et. seq., by reviewing and approving the methodology for compilation and declassification; by providing expert advice on important declassification issues for the series; and by overseeing the Department's efforts to declassify and open its 30-year old and older documentation at the National Archives and

to advise on reforming government-wide national security information management procedures.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

22 USC 4356 requires appointment of six Committee members representing the six major national professional societies for American historians, diplomatic historians, political scientists, archivists, and international lawyers. These major national groups provide top-level, integrated scholarly insights and background on the use and evaluation of historical foreign affairs records. Three at-large members of the Committee further broaden the points of view available to the Department.

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

22 USC 4356 (d) requires the Committee to meet at least quarterly a year and as frequently as may be necessary to carry out its responsibilities. The meetings have a significant impact on Department of State and government-wide actions and decisions that facilitate and improve the preparation and publication of the Foreign Relations of the United States series and public access to the Department of State's historical records.

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

Committee members represent major national professional societies dedicated to scholarly research and teaching of U.S. history, diplomatic history, political science, and international affairs; with preservation of national documentary heritage; and with the study and practice of international law. The members bring to

Committee meetings the organized, considered, and focused concerns and advice of their constituencies, which comprise nearly 30,000 historians, political scientists, archivists, and lawyers.

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

Each meeting must be partially closed while the Committee considers highly-classified and sensitive national security information from the Department of State and from other government agencies, including the White House, the CIA, and the Defense Department, proposed for inclusion in the Foreign Relations series. The Committee also discusses sensitive classification/declassification decisions that have an impact on the accuracy of the Foreign Relations series and on the declassification and opening of the Department's records at the National Archives.

21. Remarks

Required by its Congressional mandate, the committee met to review and evaluate classified diplomatic and intelligence documents for possible inclusion in the Foreign Relations series and to evaluate the implementation by the Department of its requirement to open 25-year-old records to public examination at the National Archives, and to advise the Department on the preparation of the Foreign Relations series. The Department continues to work with the other agencies to expedite the declassification process and make it more efficient. These procedures ensure the full implementation of the statutory mandate to publish a Foreign Relations series that is "thorough, accurate and reliable." The Committee advises on improvement and innovation of the preparation and publication of the series in hard copy and

online. Committee members closely monitor any reform. At meetings, the Committee is briefed by representatives from other Federal agencies with equity in the process to gain insight into the interagency declassification effort. President Donald J. Trump terminated all existing members on 4/30/2025.

Designated Federal Officer

Ashley Marie Schofield Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Goldgeier, James	09/01/2020	04/30/2025	American Political Science Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hoganson, Kristin	09/01/2020	04/30/2025	Organizations of American Historians	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Leon, Sharon	09/01/2020	04/30/2025	At-Large	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McGovern, Nancy	09/01/2020	04/30/2025	Society of American Archivists	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Naftali, Timothy	09/01/2022	04/30/2025	American Historical Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pearlstein, Deborah	09/01/2021	04/30/2025	American Society of International Law	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Saunders, Elizabeth	09/09/2024	04/30/2025	At Large member	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Schake, Kori	12/04/2023	04/30/2025	At Large Member	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Snyder, Sarah	06/05/2023	04/30/2025	Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 9

Narrative Description

The Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation supports the Department of State's mission by providing oversight to the Foreign Relations series and the opening of the Department's historical records disseminated to the global community through print and electronic publications. The Historical Advisory Committee reviews records, advises, and makes recommendations to the Office of the Historian, concerning the Foreign Relations of the United States documentary series. The Committee oversees the overall compilation and editorial process of the series and advises on all aspects of the preparation and declassification of the series. Although the Committee does not review the contents of all individual volumes, it does monitor the overall process and makes recommendations on particular issues that are brought to its attention. The Committee also reviews the declassification procedures of the Department of State, all guidelines used in the declassification process, and, by random sampling, documents representative of all Department of State records that remain classified after 25 years.

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

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

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

26

Number of Recommendations Comments

The committee issued 5 recommendations in their 2023 report which can be read online; <https://networks.h-net.org/group/discussions/20040269/report-advisory-committee-historical-dipl>
The Historical Advisory Committee completes their annual report in June, of the following new fiscal year. This information reflects 2023.

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

31%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

From 2017 to 2023 there have been 8 out of 26 recommendations that have been fully implemented. The Historical Advisory Committee completes their annual report in June, of the following new fiscal year. The information in this report reflects 2023.

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

42%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

From 2017 to 2023 there have been 11 out of 26 recommendations that have been

partially implemented. The Historical Advisory Committee completes their annual report in June, of the following new fiscal year. The information in this report reflects 2023.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The agency provides feedback at meetings of the Committee. The public can obtain information about the feedback in the Committee's Meeting Notes:

<https://history.state.gov/about/hac/meeting-notes>.

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

Other



Access Comments

N/A