

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Proposal Review Panel for Astronomical Sciences

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1. Department or Agency

National Science Foundation

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Proposal Review Panel for Astronomical Sciences

3b. GSA

Committee No.

1186

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

06/28/2024 06/28/2026

6. Expected Renewal Date

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?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

ADM IV-100

13. Effective Date

11/29/1990

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Grant Review Committee

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. 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?

Panel deliberations resulted in the review and ranking of proposals in areas of special emphasis in the Division of Astronomical Sciences. This advice aided AST Program Managers in their funding decisions. Proposals were reviewed in the following programs: Astronomy & Astrophysics Research Grants (AAG), National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), CAREER, The Astronomy & Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (AAPF), Advanced Technology and Instrumentation Program (ATI), Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program (REU), Major Research Instrumentation (MRI), Green Bank Observatory (GBO), NSF's National Optical-Infrared Astronomy Research

Laboratory (NOIRLab).

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The makeup of the individual panels was well balanced. Represented were women and minorities, and large and small institutions. Consideration was also given to the geographic areas represented. Expertise was available in terms of subject matter and research experience in the subdisciplines.

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

Each grant program in the Division of Astronomical Sciences has an annual deadline. This results in panel meetings for each program to review and rank the proposals. Periodic reviews are also held as part of the oversight and management of the national observatories.

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

Because of the complex nature of many of these proposals, the give-and-take discussion about each of the proposals which results from panel meetings is necessary for a thorough review. No other source is available to us that has the required combination of expertise and experience.

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

Proposals reviewed included information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals.

21. Remarks

N/A

Designated Federal Officer

James Neff Deputy Division Director

Narrative Description

The NSF mission is set out in the NSF Act of 1950 and authorizes and directs the Agency to initiate and support basic scientific research and research fundamental to the engineering process; and science and engineering education programs at all levels and in all fields of science and engineering. The involvement of knowledgeable peers from outside the Foundation in the review of proposals is the keystone of NSF's proposal review system. Their judgements of the extent to which proposals address the merit review criteria are vital for informing NSF staff and influencing funding recommendations.

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 type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input 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?

1,124

Number of Recommendations Comments

Please note that the number of recommendation is for the fiscal year.

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

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The word implement is not applicable to grant review panels. All recommendations for award are considered by the Agency.

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

Not applicable. Please see answer directly above.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Although panelists may not receive direct feedback, each committee member may use the NSF Fastlane, a public web-based program, which provides information on awards made by the agency to determine the outcome of proposals reviewed by the panel.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

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

Yes

What is the estimated Number of grants reviewed for approval

What is the estimated Number of grants recommended for approval 1,110
213

What is the estimated Dollar Value of grants recommended for approval
\$132,243,917

Grant Review Comments

The panelists provide information on the merit of the proposals, which include an overall rating.

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

Access Comments

N/A