

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 13, 2008

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at the Space Studies Board Reception
And Dinner on March 27, 2008

On March 27, 2008, the Space Studies Board (SSB) of the National Academies will continue their seminar series on "Forging the Future of Space Science" with a Panel and Lecture in Paris, France. The event is co-hosted by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR). The purpose of the SSB seminar series is to engage scientists and the public in assessing the scientific and social contributions of space science. The panel discussion will be moderated by Professor David Southwood, Director of Science, European Space Agency, and the topic for discussion is "The Past and Future of Science and Exploration." The keynote lecture on "Understanding the Poles of the Earth, Moon, and Mars" will be given by Professor Chris Rapley, CBE, Director, Science Museum, London.

Unlike previous SSB events, this one is by "invitation only" with the expectation of a total attendance ranging between 150-200 people. Following the Panel and Lecture events, there will be a reception to which all attendees are invited, and then a dinner for a limited number of guests, approximately 50 people. Attendees will include the members of the SSB, employees from NASA, officials of the European Space Agency, the French Space Agency, France's National Center for Scientific Research, COSPAR, International Aeronautical Federation, International Institute of Space Law, and the International Academy of Astronautics. The per person cost of the reception is approximately \$ 30.00 and the per person cost of the dinner is approximately \$ 60.00.

I find that the reception and the dinner both meet the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the two events because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the reception and dinner will allow NASA representatives to exchange views on the scientific and social contributions of space science with people from academia, international space agencies, government, and the SSB. NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect any of the sponsors, such as procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.


Adam F. Greenstone