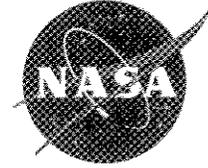


National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 1, 2011

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the COSPAR Workshop, Reception, and Dinner on March 2-4, 2011

On March 2-4, 2011, the Panel on Exploration of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), a nonprofit organization, is hosting a workshop at the Space Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. to provide a kick-off for an "*International Earth-based research program as stepping stone for global space exploration.*" The workshop will focus on science goals and preparation for future robotic and human exploration of Earth, Moon and Mars and beyond. The workshop is organized in collaboration with the COSPAR Panel on Planetary Protection, the European Science Foundation, the European Space Science Committee of COSPAR, and the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University.

Approximately 35 people will attend the workshop including international science experts and national and international representatives of science foundations, field research programs, space exploration working groups, international programs, embassies, NASA, and non-profit organizations. The estimated per person costs of food and refreshments for breakfasts and lunches during the workshop are \$32 on March 2nd, \$40 on March 3rd, and \$19 on March 4<sup>th</sup>. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a dinner for all attendees at Restaurant "Kellari" in Washington, D.C. from 6:30-9:30 with a cost of \$65. There will also be a reception on March 3rd with an estimated cost of \$20.

I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. NASA attendees will be able to exchange information with the international science community on Earth-based field research in support of future robotic and human space exploration.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsor, including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for food and refreshments at events associated with the workshop, including breakfasts, lunches, the dinner, and the reception.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsor, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

*for Rebecca Gilchrist*  
Adam F. Greenstone