

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

George C. Marshall Space Flight Center

Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812

December 13, 2013



Reply to Attn of: LS01(AMM)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/Audrey D. Robinson

SUBJECT: Approval for Two Senior Institutional NASA Employees to Attend a Dinner Meeting for the National Institute for Rocket Propulsion Systems Participants at the President of University of Alabama Huntsville's Home

Marshall Center Director Patrick Scheurmann and Marshall's Dr. Rajiv Doreswamy have been invited to attend the National Institute for Rocket Propulsion Systems (NIRPS) Academic Workshop at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) December 16 to 18, 2013. Dr. Robert Altenkirch, UAH President, is hosting a dinner meeting for the workshop participants at the President's Home, Lowe House, in downtown Huntsville, on December 16, 2013.

There are approximately forty individuals who are participants in the NIRPS Workshop who are invited to this dinner meeting. They are representatives from Auburn University, Georgia Tech University, John Hopkins University, National Institute of Aerospace, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, University of Illinois, University of Maryland, Virginia Tech and several attendees from UAH.

Attendance of these two Senior Institutional NASA employees, Director Scheurmann and Dr. Doreswamy at this event would be in the best interest of NASA, since it will further NASA programs and operations. Director Scheurmann and Dr. Doreswamy have, or may soon have, duties that involve interaction with UAH or other attendees at the NIRPS meeting who are NASA contractors. These two employees are similarly situated in that they each have senior institutional responsibilities for NASA that may involve significant community relations responsibilities that could significantly influence UAH or other attendees at the NIRPS meeting.

I have determined that attendance of Director Scheurmann and Dr. Doreswamy at this dinner is in the interest of NASA because it will further agency programs and operations, help to raise NASA's profile with academia, enhance relations with academia, and support NASA's statutory mandate to disseminate information about its programs.

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the reasonable market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these senior institutional employees attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, Director Scheurmann and Dr. Doreswamy may accept free attendance at the dinner meeting at the home of the President of UAH.

The dinner is free to those in attendance. The value of the meal is \$25 per person and the cost is covered by the UAH Foundation.

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), 14 CFR 1207.103 (c)(4), I have determined that this event will be a widely attended gathering of academia, and it is in the best interest of NASA to permit its employees who receive invitations to attend the dinner. The event will provide its employees an opportunity to network with these representatives of UAH and national universities to discuss NASA's programs.

Given the purpose of the event, the broad attendance anticipated, and the reasonable market value of this event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having employees attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, these two NASA invitees may attend this event.

UAH is not a lobbying organization and is not registered as such under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Audrey D. Robinson", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Audrey D. Robinson  
Chief Counsel