

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



**Headquarters**  
Washington, DC 20546-0001

April 3, 2019

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Agency Counsel for Ethics

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Space Policy Institute/George Washington University Dinner on May 1, 2019

On May 1, 2019, the Space Policy Institute (SPI) of George Washington University's (GWU) Elliott School of International Affairs, a not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code, will hold a dinner at the DACOR Bacon House in Washington, DC, starting at 6:30 p.m. SPI is in control of the planning, organizing, and issuing invitations for this event. The guest speaker at the event will be Dr. Fred G. Kennedy III, Director of U.S. Department of Defense, Space Development Agency.

Approximately 50 people are expected to attend the event. Attendees will have a diversity of views or interests and will include personnel from other federal agencies, members of the legislative branch, and representatives from academia, industry, and members of the public. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is approximately \$70 per person. Attendance at this event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information regarding various NASA programs. 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 provide an opportunity for the invited persons to exchange ideas and views pertaining to NASA's policies, programs and operations. NASA employees — including NASA employees in non-career positions who are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13770 — who do not have a significant role in a matter affecting the interests of SPI or GWU may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event. In those circumstances, I find that the Agency's interest in attendance outweighs any concern that the individual may be, or may appear to be, improperly influenced in the performance of their duties.

However, NASA employees who have a significant role in any pending matter affecting the interests of the sponsor, such as procurement duties, program management, or negotiating or administering a Space Act Agreement, should seek a separate determination from their local ethics counselor as to whether they may accept the invitation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone