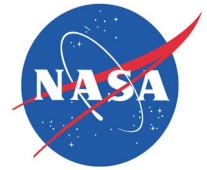


National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Mary W. Jackson Building NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



March 18, 2025

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 and Universities Space Research Association Symposium on March 27, 2025

On March 27, 2025, the Space Policy Institute (SPI), George Washington University (GWU), a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, along with Universities Space Research Association (USRA) will host a joint reception at the Holiday Inn Washington DC National Mall, 550 C. St., SW, Washington, DC, from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This event is to have discussion of artificial intelligence as it may apply to civil, commercial, and defense applications in space.

Approximately 150 people have been invited to attend. Attendees will have a diversity of views or interests and will include representatives from the legislative branch, state and local government officials, representatives from industry, employees of Federal agencies, academia, media and members of the public. The estimated cost of the event, including all food and beverages, is \$130 per person. SPI/GW/USRA are in control of the organizing, planning and invitations for this event. 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 who do not have a significant role in a matter affecting the interests of the sponsor 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.

NASA employees who do not have a significant role in a matter affecting the interests of the sponsor may accept an invitation for free attendance for themselves 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 SPI/GWU or USRA, 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.

Adam F. Greenstone