

SOFIA Science Council

The SOFIA Science Council is convened by the USRA Management and Board of Trustees. USRA will discuss nominations of new members with NASA prior to their formal nomination for appointment by the USRA Board of Trustees. NASA has agreed to the explicit terms of the structure described here. Those terms are not subject to near-term change.

Members: Chairman: Judy Pipher, University of Rochester
Reinhard Genzel, MPI, Garching, (Deputy chairman)
Giovanni Fazio, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
Terry Herter, Cornell University
Roger Hildebrand, University of Chicago
Dan Jaffe, University of Texas
Bob Joseph, University of Hawaii
Hans Peter Roser, DLR, University of Berlin
Nicholas Z. Scoville, California Institute of Technology
Charles H. Townes, University of California, Berkeley
One ex-officio NASA participant: Larry Caroff, without vote.
One DLR observer: Alois Himmes, without vote.

Mandate: Reviews: scientific effectiveness and productivity; overall observatory status, especially as related to science output; future scientific and technical directions; observatory policy; and the overall effectiveness of the education and public outreach program. Provides a review mechanism to ensure that science requirements and previous SSC review findings are continuously incorporated into SOFIA system development and operations. Reviews the capability of SOFIA to operate out of remote sites around the world, and evaluates the science return versus added cost. Advises USRA management and USRA Board of Trustees, from a science perspective, on all major policy issues related to the development and operation of the SOFIA observatory including the direction of its science and its management. During operations phase, assesses the distribution of resources among the various elements of the program and recommends changes to USRA management, and through its report, to NASA as appropriate. During operations, acts as a Visiting Committee, reviewing observatory staff performance and priorities.

Executive Sessions: The SOFIA Science Council may meet in executive session at the discretion of the Council, without the attendance of either USRA or NASA representatives. If either USRA or NASA attends, a representative of the other organization will also attend. Attendees other than USRA and NASA may be invited by the Council to its executive sessions.

Agenda Preparation: The Chairman of the SOFIA Science Council, after suggestions of agenda items from Council members, USRA and NASA.

Convened by: Director, USRA Division of Astronomy and Space Physics.

Reports to: USRA President and Board of Trustees.

Term of Appointment: Three years, once renewable, with the chairmen's terms not counted.

Duration: Serves from contract award through operations phase.

Frequency of Meetings: At least once every six months during the development stage, and then approximately every 6 months during the operational phase.

Responsibility for Meeting Support and Logistics: USRA pays for all voting members of the Council, including the German scientists selected by USRA through the process, below. NASA pays for the travel and logistics of all civil service participants.

Remuneration: Travel and Per Diem for meetings, plus honoraria.

Role of NASA and DLR: NASA may request special consideration of the Council on a topic-by-topic basis. NASA and DLR are invited to send participants to all meetings, without vote. DLR may have their interests be represented by NASA, as appropriate. NASA promptly receives all written reports of the Council and, because of the government-to-government relationship, may forward the reports to DLR. USRA will select German scientific participants to the Council with voting privileges, their number being approximately proportional to the German contribution to SOFIA. Nominees will be sought from DLR by NASA, prompted by a request from USRA to NASA.