

# NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

## CHARTER OF THE

### HUMAN EXPLORATION AND OPERATIONS RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**1. Official Designation:** Human Exploration and Operations Research Advisory Committee (HEORAC).

**2. Authority:** Having determined that it is in the public interest in connection with the performance of Agency duties under the law, the NASA Administrator hereby establishes the HEORAC's charter, pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. 2.

**3. Objectives and Scope of Activities:** The HEORAC shall draw on the expertise of its members to provide advice and make recommendations to the Director, Space Life and Physical Sciences Research and Applications Division, Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters (hereinafter, "Director, SLPSRAD") on programs, policies, plans, and priorities. The HEORAC's recommendations and analysis can be used to inform decisions on the programmatic scope and priorities, as well as the implementation of SLPSRAD programs. In addition, the HEORAC will provide a regular forum for broad discussion of research and the role of life and physical sciences within and outside of NASA.

**4. Description of Duties:** The HEORAC shall function solely as an advisory body and comply fully with the provisions of the FACA. The HEORAC shall be supported by subordinate groups, as needed, to cover the breadth and depth of scope as determined by the Director, SLPSRAD.

**5. Official to Whom the Committee Reports:** The HEORAC reports to the Director, SLPSRAD.

**6. Support:** SLPSRAD will provide staff support and operating funds for the HEORAC and, in consultation with the NASA Advisory Committee Management Officer, is responsible for fulfilling the reporting requirements of Section 7(b) of FACA.

**7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years:** The Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate will provide the budget for operation of the HEORAC. The total estimated annual operating cost for the HEORAC is approximately \$260,000, including 0.5 work years for NASA staff support.

**8. Designated Federal Officer:** The Executive Secretary of the HEORAC shall be appointed by the Director, SLPSRAD, and shall serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO will be either a full-time or a permanent part-time employee, who will: call, attend, and adjourn committee and subordinate group meetings; approve agendas; maintain required records on costs and membership; ensure efficient operations; maintain records for availability to the public; and provide copies of the HEORAC reports to the NASA Committee Advisory Management Officer for forwarding to the Library of Congress. The Executive Secretary will also coordinate with the members to ensure that all legal/ethics requirements pertaining to Special Government Employee

(SGE) appointments are met. The requirements include, though are not limited to, timely filing of annual financial disclosure reports and annual ethics training by a representative of NASA's Office of General Counsel (OGC) and seeking advice from the NASA OGC Ethics Team for any questions concerning Government ethics requirements that may arise.

**9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:** The HEORAC shall meet two to four times a year or as required by the Director, SLPSRAD. Meetings shall be open to the public unless it is determined that the meeting, or a portion of the meeting, is not covered by FACA or will be closed in accordance with the Government in the Sunshine Act.

**10. Duration:** The HEORAC is envisioned to be a continuing entity with charter renewals.

**11. Termination:** The HEORAC terminates two years from the date of the filing of this charter unless renewed or terminated earlier by the NASA Administrator, after consultation with the Director, SLPSRAD, and the Associate Administrator, Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate.

**12. Membership and Designation:** The HEORAC shall consist of members without compensation to be selected by the Director, SLPSRAD, following the Associate Administrator, Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate's written consultation and approval by the Administrator. Appointment letter(s) and reappointment letter(s) will be signed by the Associate Administrator, Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, per delegation of the NASA Administrator. The Director, SLPSRAD, shall ensure a balanced representation in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed. Diversity shall be considered as well. The HEORAC shall consist of approximately 12-20 members who will serve as SGEs (unless they are Regular Government Employees (RGEs)) for a two-year term, renewable at the discretion of the Director, SLPSRAD. The Director, SLPSRAD, shall designate the Chair of the HEORAC, after consultation with the Associate Administrator, Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, and will be documented in the appointment letter or reappointment letter. The HEORAC Chair also will serve as a member of the Human Exploration and Operations Committee, NASA Advisory Council, and also be formally appointed to this position. The Director, SLPSRAD, also shall select a Vice-Chair from among the members, in consultation with the HEORAC Chair.

**13. Subordinate Groups:** HEORAC ad hoc task forces, Science Definition Teams (SDTs), Senior Reviews (SRs), and other subordinate groups as needed, may be established or discontinued at the discretion of the Director, SLPSRAD, following consultation with the Associate Administrator, Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate. Members of the subordinate groups who are not RGE will be designated SGE. No formal amendment(s) to this charter will be required to effect such change(s). The terms of reference for a subordinate group shall be subject to the approval of the Director, SLPSRAD. Subordinate group chairs and members shall be appointed by the Director, SLPSRAD. Any subordinate group will report back to the HEORAC and will not provide advice or work products directly to NASA.

**14. Recordkeeping:** The records of the HEORAC, or other subordinate groups of the HEORAC, shall be handled in accordance with the General Records Schedule 6.2, or other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

**15. Filing Date:** This charter shall become effective upon the filing of this charter with the appropriate U.S. Senate and House of Representatives oversight committees, the General Services Administration's Committee Management Secretariat, and the Library of Congress.



Charles F. Bolden, Jr.  
Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**JAN 17 2017**

Filing Date