

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**Office of the Administrator**  
Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



**NPI 1000.100**

November 17, 2025

**TO:** Officials-in-Charge of Headquarters Offices  
Directors, NASA Centers

**FROM:** Associate Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Divestiture or Transfer of Functions of the Office of the Chief Scientist

NASA has recently divested of the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) as a discrete supporting staff function. Similar to NASA's divestiture of the Independent Program Assessment Office in 2017, some of OCS' functions will become organic to Mission Directorates in execution of their programmatic responsibilities, and clarity is needed relative to ownership and stewardship of existing policy.

This NASA Policy Instruction directs the reassignment, distribution, or divestiture of specific roles and responsibilities of OCS, as previously published in NASA Policy Directive (NPD) 1000.3F, Change 3, or as matters of operational execution.

### **1. Divested as Dedicated Support Functions and/or Distributed to Mission Directorates**

Below are the NPD 1000.3F, Change 3, roles and responsibilities for OCS. Those marked "*divested*" are cancelled as dedicated support functions within the NASA organization. For those marked "*distributed*," each Mission Directorate will be responsible for equivalent safeguards, representation, etc. relative to its scientific research portfolio. The Office of the Administrator will direct special assessments, working groups, etc. if and as these activities are needed to ensure integrity of the Agency's research activities.

- "Provides independent assessment and advice to the Administrator on matters related to NASA science." *Distributed.*
- "Performs scientific, technical, programmatic, and/or policy reviews to assure that NASA science programs are of the highest scientific and technologic merit and integrity." *Distributed.*
- "Provides independent portfolio analysis of significant science activities, as appropriate." *Distributed, as part of any Mission Directorate's existing NPD 1080.1, NASA Procedural Requirements (NPR) 1080.1, or NPR 7120.8 responsibilities.*
- "Promotes, communicates, and advocates for NASA's science portfolio and strategy to the broad external community." *Distributed.*

- “Represents NASA in promoting and maintaining good public and community relations and providing for the widest practical and appropriate dissemination of information concerning science and space activities.” *Distributed.*
- “Represents the NASA Administrator to the NASA Advisory Council Science Committee, the National Academy of Sciences, and other science advisory bodies.” *Retained by the Office of the Administrator but may be directed to a Mission Directorate Associate Administrator on a case-by-case basis.*
- “Provides support and guidance to NASA science organizations in their development and implementation of plans to address science policy goals, objectives, metrics, and actions needed to execute the strategic goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan.” *Divested.*
- “Directs and oversees a Science Innovation Fund to promote the conduct of highly innovative, exploratory, and high-risk/high-return scientific research at NASA Centers in support of the strategic direction of the NASA Centers and Agency.” *Divested; this fund no longer exists. SMD will continue to implement the Internal Scientist Funding Model directed by the Mission Support Council in March 2021.*
- “Integrates across science and engineering communities to provide technical expertise and recommendations to the Office of Communications in its management of the NASA Library Services Program.” *Divested. The Office of Communications will sunset the related Agency Library Oversight Committee and seek community input for management of the Agency Library Services Program through other means.*

Most of the distributed responsibilities are already present in or encompassed by NPD 1000.3F, 4.1, *Roles and Responsibilities Common to Mission Directorate Associate Administrators*. To ensure that their application to any scientific research conducted within a Mission Directorate is not lost, an additional responsibility will be added as 4.1.2.3.h:

- “Ensures that scientific research sponsored by the Mission Directorate is aligned to the NASA Strategic Plan, is of the highest scientific or technological merit and integrity, and is communicated and made available to the public following NASA directives.”

## **2. Transfer of Policy Ownership and Oversight Stakeholder Engagement to SMD**

The following policies are transferred to the Science Mission Directorate (SMD) to manage on behalf of all Mission Directorates. SMD will engage other Mission Directorates collaboratively in draft revisions prior to submission for NODIS formal review. SMD will be the primary interface for external stakeholder inquiries (congressional, audit, etc.) related to these policies, but may refer specific matters to other Mission Directorates when the subject matter is confined to their areas of expertise:

- NPD 1090.2, *Citizen Science*.
- 14 CFR §1275, *Research Misconduct*, and NPD 1920.1, *Scientific and Research Integrity*.
- NPD 2230.1, *Research and Data Publication and Access*.
- NPD 7100.10, *Curation of Institutional Scientific Collections*.

SMD is strongly encouraged to consider consolidation of any of these policies into or across its existing directives, including but not limited to, revisions of NPD 1080.1, *Policy for Conduct of*

*NASA Research and Technology*, NPR 1080.1, *Requirements for the Conduct of NASA Research and Technology*, and NPR 7100.5, *Curation of Astromaterials*. SMD is further actioned to administratively update NPR 7100.5, specifically with respect to any decisional or approving roles of the Chief Scientist, no later than December 31, 2025.

At this time, Presidential Memorandum of January 27, 2021, *Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking*, has not been revoked. The Memorandum's required designations of Chief Science Officer and Scientific Integrity Official are transferred to the Deputy Associate Administrator for Research, SMD, who may delegate the Scientific Integrity Official further. Should the Memorandum be revoked, appropriate related responsibilities will be encompassed by the Agency's designated Evaluation Officer, Chief Data Officer, and/or Statistical Official required under the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policy-Making Act of 2018, P.L. 115-435*.

In addition, SMD is the lead for all current and future activities associated with National Security Presidential Memorandum 33, *Presidential Memorandum on United States Government-Support Research and Development National Security Policy*, and related activities such as those under the *CHIPS and Science Act, P.L. 117-167*.

Policy authority for most of these can already be derived from SMD's current Roles and Responsibilities in NPD 1000.3F, 4.5. It is important for the Agency to have a clear lead for matters of scientific research integrity and security, and a clear voice with the international community. The following responsibilities will thus be added or transferred as 4.5.2.i, j:

- Leads policy and external interfaces, on behalf of all Mission Directorates, for matters of scientific research integrity and security.
- Serves as the Administrator's science representative to the international community, as appropriate.

### **3. Additional Transfer of Roles to SMD**

SMD will support the following prior OCS roles directly through engagement with other organizations.

- "Encourages and fosters science integration and cooperation across the Agency, including the Mission Directorates and Centers."
- "Works with the Center Directors to promote scientific vitality and innovation at the Centers."

SMD will continue to publish a NASA Science Plan, which is the effective implementation of the "Agency science strategy" previously documented in OCS' roles and responsibilities. Each Mission Directorate will ensure that NASA's quadrennial Strategic Plan incorporates science goals and objectives, and the Administrator will rely on SMD's assessment of the effectiveness of this incorporation during review and approval of the Strategic Plan.

SMD will take lead on any ad hoc interagency committees or principals' meetings within its functional domain that were previously staffed by OCS, including but not limited to, the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee and Interagency Council on Advancing Meteorological Services. Internally, SMD will ensure appropriate participation in the ISS Research Integration Control Board.

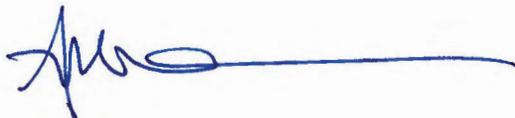
Any further Agency-wide data collection in response to GAO-16-14, *Women in STEM Research*, is terminated. SMD will assume responsibilities for related data requirements within their proposals and programs, and ownership of related Information Collection activities with the Office of Management and Budget/Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

#### **4. Transfer of Roles to Other Organizations**

The NASA Chief of Staff will assign a Senior Policy Advisor to lead the Agency nomination process for White House-initiated Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers.

The current (unchartered) Science Council is sun-setted, but Center Chief Scientists should continue to meet regularly to coordinate, integrate, and raise issues of significance to the Administrator.

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer will assume the coordination role for the conference travel prioritization process, in coordination with the Office of International and Interagency Relations, per separate memo from the Office of the Administrator.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a long horizontal line.

Amit Kshatriya  
Associate Administrator

cc:

Inspector General/Mr. Steinau (Senior Official)  
Director, Office of the Executive Secretariat/Ms. Krauk