

Federal/university partnerships to promote a strong educational base in the space and aeronautical sciences. These designated colleges and consortia will provide leadership for a network of American colleges and universities, industry and State and local governments in space-related fields. The Administrator hereby delegates this authority to the Director, Educational Affairs Division.

(b) Designation of Space Grant colleges, Space Grant college consortia and Space Grant regional consortia shall be for 5 years. Designation of Space Grant colleges and consortia may be continued based on a merit review at the beginning of the fifth year.

(c) Each designated Space Grant college or consortium will receive:

(1) A Space Grant award that requires a 100 percent match; and

(2) Funds for fellowships.

(d) Each Space Grant college or consortium will be funded annually.

§ 1259.401 Responsibilities.

Each designated Space Grant college or consortium shall:

(a) Designate a Space Grant Program Director;

(b) Establish a Space Grant Office;

(c) Administer a fellowship program;

(d) Develop and implement programs of public service, interdisciplinary space-related programs, advisory activities and cooperation with industry, research laboratories, State and local governments and other colleges and universities, particularly institutions in their State and/or region with significantly large enrollments of racial minorities who are under-represented in science and technology; and

(e) Provide nonfederal matching funds (exclusive of in-kind contributions) for the Space Grant program equal to that provided by NASA.

§ 1259.402 Basic criteria and application procedures.

(a) Any institution of higher education may be designated a Space Grant college if the Administrator or designee finds that it has a balanced program of research, education, training and advisory services in fields related to space, as further defined in the program announcement.

(b) Any association or other alliance of two or more persons may be designated a Space Grant regional consortium, if the Administrator or designee finds that such association or alliance:

(1) Is established for the purpose of sharing expertise, research, educational or training facilities and other capabilities in order to facilitate research, education, training and advisory services, in any field related to space;

(2) Will encourage and follow a regional approach to solving problems or meeting needs relating to space, in cooperation with other institutions of higher education, Space Grant program grantees and other persons in the region.

(c) The opportunity to apply for designation shall be announced by the Director, Educational Affairs Division. The application procedures and evaluation guidelines for designation shall be included in the designation announcement.

(d) Designation will be decided by a competitive merit review of the program proposal measured against the purposes of the Act and including, but not limited to, proposed linkages with other colleges and universities (particularly institutions with significant enrollments of under-represented minority groups), public service and collaboration with space-related industry.

§ 1259.403 Limitations.

The same limitations shall apply as are stated in § 1259.203.

§ 1259.404 Suspension or termination of designation.

The Administrator or designee, the Director, Educational Affairs Division, may, for cause, and after an opportunity for a hearing before an Administrative Judge appointed by the Deputy Administrator, suspend or terminate the Space Grant designation of any institution or consortium.

Subpart 5—Space Grant Fellowships

§ 1259.500 Description.

The Space Grant fellowship program will provide educational and training assistance to qualified individuals at

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the graduate level in fields related to space. Awards will be made to institutions of higher education for fellowships. The student recipients shall be known as NASA Space Grant Fellows.

§ 1259.501 Responsibilities.

(a) All institutions which receive Space Grant fellowships will be expected to use the awards to increase the pool of graduate students in fields related to space.

(b) The overall fellowship program shall be cognizant of institutional diversity and geographical distribution.

§ 1259.502 Application procedures.

(a) All applicants for designation as Space Grant colleges and consortia must apply for Space Grant fellowships.

(b) Applicants for Space Grant program or project grants (under § 1259.200) and for national needs grants (under § 1259.300) may also apply for Space Grant fellowships.

(c) There will be a merit review selection of Space Grant fellowship awards.

§ 1259.503 Limitations.

(a) Fellowships shall be awarded only to Nationals of the United States.

(b) Any students supported under this fellowship program shall not be funded for more than 4 years unless the Director, Educational Affairs Division, makes an exception.

Subpart 6—Space Grant Review Panel

§ 1259.600 Panel description.

An independent committee, the Space Grant Review Panel, which is not subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, shall be established to advise the Administrator with respect to Space Grant program and project awards, the Space Grant fellowship program and the designation and operation of Space Grant colleges and consortia. A majority of the voting members shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training are especially qualified in one or more of the fields related to space. The other voting members shall be individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experi-

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ence or training, are especially qualified in, or representative of, education, extension services, State government, industry, economics, planning or any other activity related to the purposes of the Space Grant program.

§ 1259.601 Establishment and composition.

(a) The Panel, to be located at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC, will be composed of ten voting members who are not current NASA employees.

(b) It shall include four from Federal departments, agencies or entities that have an interest in space programs or science and education, and six non-federal representatives.

(c) The nonfederal representatives shall include two persons who are directly involved with the Space Grant program at a Space Grant college or consortium, one person involved with the Space Grant program at a university that is not a designated Space Grant college, a university president or chancellor, one representative of a space-related industry and the last person to be from whatever field the Administrator determines to be of greatest concern.

(d) The Panel members shall be appointed by the Administrator or designee.

(e) The relevant organizations and associations in aerospace and science education fields will be asked to provide three names for each position on the panel. The Administrator shall consider them, but not be limited to them, in the selection process.

(f) The Administrator or designee shall select a Chair and a Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall act as Chair in the absence or incapacity of the Chair.

(g) The Administrator or designee may select NASA officials to serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the panel.

§ 1259.602 Conflict of interest.

Any member of the Panel who has a personal or financial interest in an issue before the Panel shall abstain from voting on such issue.