



CHARTER  
of the  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE  
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

**A. Official Designation**

The Subcommittee on Scientific Integrity (SOSI) is hereby established by action of the Committee on Science of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC).

**B. Purpose and Scope**

The SOSI is established in response to the 2022 NSTC Scientific Integrity Fast-Track Action Committee's report entitled *Protecting the Integrity of Government Science* (2022 Report) which found that an interagency deliberative body would be critical to building successful scientific integrity programs across the whole of government. This body is essential to the long-term protection of scientific integrity in the Executive Branch (agencies).

The scope of the SOSI is to assess and communicate on matters of Federal scientific integrity for the purposes of (1) fostering and strengthening a culture and practice of scientific integrity government-wide and (2) providing coordination, information-sharing, and support across agencies and components of the Executive Office of the President (EOP). This scope enables SOSI to be a primary vehicle for cross-agency coordination, assessment and improvement of agency policies and practices, while maintaining a role as an independent voice on matters of Federal scientific integrity.

The SOSI shall be comprised of career Scientific Integrity Officials (SIO) from Federal agencies and staff members of EOP components.

**C. Functions**

The SOSI shall (no order of priority is implied):

- Promote a culture of scientific integrity across government by sharing and celebrating agency achievements and milestones involving scientific integrity;
- Convene SIOs from Federal agencies for the purposes of interagency coordination on matters related to scientific integrity;

- Share developments in, case studies about, advice, and resources for, scientific integrity policies and practices;
- Review and provide guidance on newly established or amended agency scientific integrity policies;
- Assist the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in assessing regular performance and improvement of agency and EOP component scientific integrity policies, practices, and culture;
- Assess, analyze, and offer recommendations to the extent allowed by law, applicable regulations, and consistent with privacy obligations, regarding public allegations of scientific integrity violations, such as allegations that involve senior-level officials, political appointees, or scientific integrity officials;
- Provide advisory responses to agency inquiries about scientific integrity;
- At the discretion of SOSI, and only when the agency provides the level of access that SOSI deems necessary to any internal information needed for a valid analysis, provide advisory responses to agency requests for another agency to review their internal scientific integrity policies and processes, such as inquiries related to senior-level officials, political appointees, or SIOs; and,
- Coordinate, accelerate, and advise agencies and EOP components on important and emerging issues with scientific integrity implications, including but not limited to those identified in the 2022 Report such as: diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility of science; scientific engagement with underserved communities; advances in automated decision-making technologies; new modes of science; and, coordination of related or adjacent policy domains such as research security and open science.

In conducting its work, the SOSI may, as needed (no order of priority is implied):

- Liaise between the OSTP Director, heads of agencies, Chief Data Officer Council, Evaluation Officer Council, OMB Director, Chief Scientific Officers, SIOs, and other Federal agency stakeholders as appropriate to best optimize, streamline, and prevent duplicative work across the Federal government;
- Confer with and gather input from stakeholders outside of government, using a variety of methods including convening meetings, requesting data calls, and issuing requests for information or comment;
- Convene meetings with and gather input from relevant agency and EOP component members;
- Consult and collaborate with other NSTC bodies;
- Create standing and term-limited subgroups;
- Share findings and recommendations with the Chair(s) of the Committee on Science on allegations of scientific integrity violations brought before SOSI by agencies for review and to other Federal agency stakeholders, as appropriate, to raise awareness, share best practices between agencies, gather input, and recommend institutional improvements;

- Publish SOSI proceedings, final reports, guidance, and other materials, to the extent permitted by law, regulations, and consistent with privacy obligations, on OSTP and/or agency websites; and,
- Establish meeting cadence, parliamentary procedures, notetaking procedures, and other requirements in the conduct of SOSI administration.

#### **D. Membership**

The Membership of the SOSI shall be constituted by the SIOs of Executive Branch departments and agencies. Representative agencies include, but shall not be limited to:

Department of Agriculture  
 Department of Commerce  
 Department of Defense  
 Department of Education  
 Department of Energy  
 Department of Health and Human Services  
 Department of Homeland Security  
 Department of Housing and Urban Development  
 Department of Justice  
 Department of Labor  
 Department of State  
 Department of the Interior  
 Department of Transportation  
 Department of Treasury  
 Department of Veterans Affairs  
 National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
 National Science Foundation  
 Smithsonian Institution  
 The Office of Personnel Management  
 United States Agency for International Development  
 United States Consumer Financial Protection Bureau  
 United States Consumer Product Safety Commission  
 United States Environmental Protection Agency  
 United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
 Federal Communications Commission

The following components in the Executive Office of the President are represented on the SOSI:  
 Office of Management and Budget; and  
 Office of Science and Technology Policy (permanent co-chair)

The following agencies members shall serve as co-chairs for a one-year term, effective from the date of this charter:

Department of the Interior  
 United States Environmental Protection Agency

## **D.2. Member Roles, Responsibilities, and Procedures**

OSTP and agency co-chairs shall act as an executive council on the SOSI, establishing SOSI priorities, agendas, and acting as principal authors of SOSI communications. Election of agency co-chairs shall be subject to SOSI parliamentary procedures as decided and led by the Executive Secretaries. Elected agency co-chairs shall serve a term of two years and may be re-elected.

Agency members shall participate in SOSI meetings, serve on subgroups of the SOSI, provide information to the SOSI, and perform duties on SOSI business as appropriate and as designated by the SOSI co-chairs.

All agency and EOP component members shall hold a single vote on proposed actions by the SOSI.

## **E. Private-Sector and Inter-Governmental Agency Interface**

The SOSI may work with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) to secure appropriate private-sector advice, and will recommend to the Director of the OSTP the nature of additional private-sector advice needed to accomplish its mission. The SOSI may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The SOSI may seek input from communities affected by scientific integrity policies and practices. Input from these communities may be acquired through interactions with national or international state, local or Tribal governments, or with private and non-profit organizations, as appropriate.

The SOSI may consult with agency inspectors general or other legal counsel and liaise with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency on matters related to scientific integrity.

**F. Determination**

I hereby determine that the establishment of the permanent Subcommittee on Scientific Integrity is in the public interest in connection with the performance duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

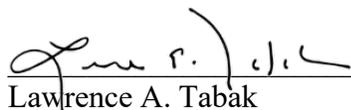
Approved:



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Alondra Nelson  
Co-chair, NSTC Committee on Science  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
Performing the Duties of Director  
Office of Science and Technology Policy

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June 11, 2022

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Date



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Lawrence A. Tabak  
Co-chair, NSTC Committee on Science  
Acting Director, National Institutes of Health

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July 8, 2022

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Date



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Sethuraman Panchanathan  
Co-chair, NSTC Committee on Science  
Director, National Science Foundation

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July 8, 2022

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Date