

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-

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.