

General Services Administration

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(A) An explanation of why the committee is essential to the conduct of agency business and is in the public interest;

(B) GSA's plan to attain balanced membership of the committee; and

(C) An explanation of why the committee's functions cannot be performed by GSA, another existing GSA advisory committee, or other means such as a public hearing;

(iii) A notice for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER describing the nature and purpose of the committee and containing a certification by the Administrator that renewing the advisory committee is in the public interest.

(3) On receiving the above documents, the GSA Committee Management Officer submits the renewal letter to the Committee Management Secretariat not more than 60 calendar days nor less than 30 days before the committee expires. Following receipt of the Committee Management Secretariat's views on the committee renewal, the Officer obtains the Administrator's approval of the charter and the FEDERAL REGISTER notice. The Officer publishes notice of the renewal in the FEDERAL REGISTER and files copies of the updated charter. The 15-day notice requirement does not apply to committee renewals, notices of which may be published concurrently with the filing of the charter.

(b) Each statutory advisory committee is renewed by the filing of a renewal charter upon the expiration of each successive 2-year period following the date of enactment of the statute establishing the committee according to the following:

(1) The procedures in paragraph (a)(2) of this section apply to the renewal of a statutory committee except that neither prior consultation with the Committee Management Secretariat nor a FEDERAL REGISTER notice is required. Accordingly, the letter that paragraph a(2)(ii) requires is sent to the Administrator rather than the Committee Management Secretariat. Due to the nature of a committee the law established, the explanation of the need to continue the committee's existence is less extensive than the explanation for the continuation of a non-statutory committee; and

(2) The GSA Committee Management Officer provides the Committee Management Secretariat with a copy of the filed charter.

(c) An advisory committee required to file a new charter may not take any action other than preparing the charter between the date it is to be filed and the date it is actually filed.

§ 105-54.306 Amendment of advisory committee charters.

(a) A charter is amended when GSA decides that the existing charter no longer accurately reflects the objectives or functions of the committee. Changes may be minor, such as revising the name of the committee or modifying the estimated number or frequency of meetings, or they may be major dealing with the basic objectives or composition of the committee. The Administrator retains final authority for amending the charter of an advisory committee. Amending an existing advisory committee charter does not constitute renewal of the committee.

(b) To make a minor amendment, the Administrator approves the amended charter and has it filed according to § 105-54.203-1.

(c) To make a major amendment, the Committee Management Officer submits an amended charter and a letter to the Committee Management Secretariat, signed by the HSSO with the concurrence of the General Counsel or designee, requesting the Secretariat's views on the amended language, along with an explanation of the purpose of the changes and why they are necessary. The Secretariat reviews the proposed changes and notifies the Committee Management Officer of its views within 15 calendar days of receiving it, if possible. The Administrator has the charter filed according to § 105-54.203-1.

(d) Amending an existing charter does not constitute renewal of the committee.

§ 105-54.307 Termination of advisory committees.

(a) The sponsoring HSSO terminates an advisory committee that has fulfilled the purpose stated in its charter. The official takes action to rescind any existing orders relating to the committee and to notify committee members, the

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GSA Committee Management Officer, and the Committee Management Secretariat of the termination.

(b) Failing to continue an advisory committee by the 2-year anniversary date terminates the committee, unless its duration is provided for by law.

§ 105-54.308 Responsibilities of the Administrator.

The Administrator must ensure:

(a) Compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and this chapter;

(b) Issuance of administrative guidelines and management controls that apply to all advisory committees established or used by the agency;

(c) Designation of a Committee Management Officer to carry out the functions specified in section 89(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act;

(d) Provision of a written determination stating the reasons for closing any advisory committee meeting to the public;

(e) A review, at least annually, of the need to continue each existing advisory committee, consistent with the public interest and the purpose and functions of each committee;

(f) The appointment of a Designated Federal Officer for each advisory committee and its subcommittee;

(g) The opportunity for reasonable public participation in advisory committee activities; and

(h) That the number of committee members is limited to the fewest necessary to accomplish committee objectives.

§ 105-54.309 Added responsibilities of service and staff office heads and regional administrators.

(a) No later than the first meeting of an advisory committee, submit to committee members, committee staff, consultants, and appropriate agency management personnel a written statement of the purpose, objectives, and expected accomplishments of the committee;

(b) Solicit in writing or in a formal meeting at least annually the views of committee members on the effectiveness, activities, and management of the committee, including recommendations for improvement. Review comments to determine whether improve-

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ments or corrective action is warranted. Retain recommendations until the committee is terminated or renewed.

(c) Involve key management personnel of the agency whose interests are affected by the committee in committee meetings, including reviewing reports and establishing agendas.

(d) Periodically, but not less than annually, review the level of committee staff support to make sure that expenditures are justified by committee activity and benefit to the Government.

(e) Monitor the attendance and participation of committee members and consider replacing any member who misses a substantial number of scheduled meetings.

(f) Establish meeting dates and distribute agendas and other materials well in advance.

§ 105-54.310 Advisory committee duties of the GSA Committee Management Officer.

In addition to implementing the provisions of section 8(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the GSA Committee Management Officer carries out all responsibilities delegated by the Administrator. The Officer ensures that sections 10(b), 12(a), and 13 of the Act are implemented by GSA to provide for appropriate record keeping. Records include, but are not limited to:

(a) A set of approved charters and membership lists for each advisory committee;

(b) Copies of GSA's portion of the Annual Report of Federal Advisory Committees.

(c) Guidelines on committee management operations and procedures as maintained and updated; and

(d) Determinations to close advisory committee meetings.

§ 105-54.311 Complaint procedures.

(a) Any person whose request for access to an advisory committee document is denied may seek administrative review under 41 CFR 105-60, which implements the Freedom of Information Act. (See GSA Order, GSA regulations under the "Freedom of Information Act" (ADM 7900.3A).)

(b) Aggrieved individuals or organizations may file written complaints on