

Subject: Re: Important: Request for service as Section Liaison to the National Research Council
From: Fred Gould <fgould@ncsu.edu>
Date: 4/7/2017 1:07 PM
To: "aajames@uci.edu" <aajames@uci.edu>

Tony,
I'd be glad to volunteer for this.

On Apr 7, 2017, at 12:39 PM, Anthony James <nasmembr@nas.edu> wrote:

A message from Anthony James aajames@uci.edu.

Request for service as Section Liaison to the National Research Council

Hello Section 61 Members,

Dick Witter has provided outstanding service for us since 2009 as the Section Liaison to the National Research Council (NRC) and he is stepping down this year. I know I speak on behalf of all of us in conveying our thanks for a job well done!

I am hoping to be able to appoint one or more NRC Liaisons at the NAS annual meeting this year so that we do not experience a service gap.

Therefore, I am asking for volunteers for this important role in both the Section and Academy. I have appended below the official text of the '**Responsibilities of NAS Section Liaisons to the National Research Council**' so that you may get an idea of what the position entails. In addition, a dedicated Section Liaison web page can be accessed through the Member Section of the NAS website (<http://www.nasonline.org/member-center/liaison/index.jsp>). Dick also has been kind enough to share a few remarks on his experience and I summarize them below with my comments in parentheses.

The NRC Liaison can expect to receive 30-40 emails each year asking for nominations for committee membership or report reviewers, and this amounts to approximately 150-200 projects. (I am hoping we can get at least two of our Section Members with complementary expertise to share this).

After perusing the request titles, the Section Liaisons determine if any are relevant to the experience and skill set of our Section and then (1) nominate prospective Members based on their (Section Liaisons) knowledge, (2) contact relevant discipline chairs (or others) for

recommendations, or (3) contact the Section Chair to arrange a Section-wide call. (You have received a couple of these from me over the last year.) Names of experts then are sent to the appropriate NRC staff person.

Dick has agreed to share his experiences in more depth with the new Section Liaisons and provide advice as needed.

Please let me know by return e-mail by **Friday, April 21, 2017**, if you are willing to serve the Section in this role. I look forward to participation of our Section Members in NRC activities.

Best,

Tony

Responsibilities of NAS Section Liaisons to the National Research Council

Introduction

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) designates one or more members from each NAS section to serve as liaisons to the National Research Council (NRC). Each Section Liaison is responsible for:

- 1) Strengthening the link between the NAS and the NRC programs that provide scientific and technical advice, information, and oversight, and
- 2) Bringing the expertise and experience of NAS members to bear on scientific, engineering, medical, and policy issues of importance to the nation by nominating NAS members as members of NRC *ad hoc* committees, members of *standing* boards and committees, and as independent reviewers of NRC advisory reports.

The Section Liaison Process

For ad hoc Committees

When new *ad hoc* studies and activities are authorized by the NRC Governing Board's Executive Committee (GBEC), the NRC Executive Office informs NAS Section Liaisons about new projects and provides contact information for the project staff.

Each NAS Section Liaison is expected to notify NRC project staff if his/her section has an interest in a particular project. When the NRC project staff begin to develop a slate of potential committee members for that project, the staff will contact interested Section Liaisons to nominate NAS members as possible committee members. In addition, the staff will contact other Section Liaisons in relevant disciplines to seek nominees for the committee. Section Liaisons are expected to, in turn, consult with members of their sections to identify interested nominees for committee service.

For Boards and Standing Committees

Standing boards and committees of the NRC oversee advisory studies and other activities.

Approximately one-third of the members of standing boards and committees turn over each year; therefore, opportunities for NAS member service on these bodies become available on a regular basis.

NRC staff are expected to identify Academy members to serve on these standing boards and committees. In carrying out this responsibility, the staff consult with appropriate NAS Section Liaisons.

For Report Review

Every report prepared by an NRC project committee is reviewed by an independent group of experts. The appointment of these reviewers is overseen by the Report Review Committee (RRC).

Every month, an RRC staff representative sends all Section Liaisons a list of major reports expected to enter review within the next three months. This list includes a brief description of each project and provides other pertinent information. Liaisons are invited to nominate Section members and other experts to serve as reviewers for these reports. Section Liaisons are expected to consult with members of their Sections for advice and to submit nominations to the RRC staff representative. Section Liaisons are provided feedback on their reviewer suggestions annually (i.e., who agreed to serve as a reviewer, who declined, and who was not contacted).

Types of Expertise Sought for Service as Committee Members and Report Reviewers

Project committees and the report review process benefit from NAS members who bring both specific expertise and more general knowledge. We seek a group of individuals with a mix of specialized knowledge and expertise directly related to the subject matter of the issues we are addressing, as well as individuals with broad knowledge and intellectual curiosity who are not experts in the specific subject matter.

[Click here to visit the section web site.](#)

If the text above does not appear as a clickable link, you can visit the web address:

http://nas.nasonline.org/site/Clubs?club_id=1049&pg=main&s_oo=GC2Cme8AoQo6sh2d2CUJGg

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