

ANASAC Terms of Reference

1. The ALMA North American Science Advisory Committee (ANASAC) was established by the Director of the NRAO on 28 February 2003.
2. Members shall be appointed by the NRAO Director. Appointments to the ANASAC are for three-year terms. Roughly one-third of the membership will rotate off each year and be replaced by new members.
3. The Chair of ANASAC shall be elected by the ANASAC. The Chair shall be elected for one year, but appointments may be extended.
4. The North American ALMA Project Scientist (NAPS) will organize ANASAC meetings in conjunction with the Head of the NAASC and the ANASAC Chair. Formally, the NAPS and the Head of the NAASC are not members of ANASAC but will participate as of right in the meetings. Neither NAPS nor the Head of the NAASC have a vote and they are not required to participate in consensus decisions of ANASAC.
5. ANASAC shall have three primary mandates:
 - Advise the Director of the NRAO on issues relating to scientific use of ALMA, including requirements for ALMA user support, preparatory programs with existing facilities and/or providing access to new facilities in Chile, science with ALMA during the construction and commissioning stage, definition of and preparation for the NAASC that will be located in Charlottesville, and on science and priorities for ALMA Chilean operations and continual ALMA upgrades.
 - Provide a conduit between the NRAO and the NA scientific community for dissemination of information pertaining to the status and progress of the ALMA construction project and operations.
 - Carry out such other tasks as may be requested by the NRAO Director.
6. An actively-involved North American millimeter- and submillimeter-astronomy community is fundamental to the ultimate success of ALMA. The ANASAC is a mechanism to incorporate the whole North American scientific community into the ALMA project, and promote the health and scientific vitality of the community, programs for training future millimeter- and submillimeter-astronomers. Furthermore, to ensure maximum contact between the ALMA project and the community, we intend that the North American ASAC members be nominated from the members of the ANASAC.
7. There should be at least one ANASAC face-to-face meeting per year. The NRAO Director may place a specific charge to each meeting of the ANASAC. Where the ANASAC makes specific recommendations to the NRAO Director, the NRAO Director shall accept, modify, or reject such recommendations and convey a response to the ANASAC through the Chairperson of the ANASAC.
8. ANASAC shall agree on its own Rules of Procedure, and shall seek to reach conclusions by consensus. Dissenting opinions to written recommendations in report shall be clearly indicated.