



# NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

## SUMMARY OF THE NAS CONDUCT REVIEW PROCESS

- An allegation of a violation\* of the NAS Code of Conduct by an NAS member or international member is reported in writing to the NAS Home Secretary or Foreign Secretary (the “cognizant officer”), respectively.
- The cognizant officer determines whether the alleged conduct may violate the Code of Conduct and, if so, appoints an Assessment Panel consisting of at least three (3) NAS members to consider the complaint.
- The cognizant officer notifies the complainant(s) and the accused that an inquiry has been initiated, and the accused member is requested to prepare a written statement for presentation to the panel.
- At the conclusion of its assessment, the panel makes a report to the standing Conduct Committee, including the full record of the complaint, the response of the accused, and the record of the panel’s deliberations; the panel’s decision as to whether a violation occurred; and the recommended action, if any.
- Following its review of the Assessment Panel’s report, the Conduct Committee tells the cognizant officer whether it concurs in the panel’s findings and recommended action(s), if any, and it requests that the action(s) be taken by the NAS Council.
- If no violation is deemed to have occurred, the cognizant officer notifies the complainant and the accused member. If it is determined that a violation has occurred, the cognizant officer notifies the accused member of the decision and of any action(s) that will be taken. If the action is to rescind membership, the accused member is informed of the right to appeal.
- The accused may file an appeal to the NAS President in writing, which must be received within sixty (60) days of the date that notice of the decision was sent, and which must be based only on failure to follow the process outlined above and not on the substance of the allegation(s).
- The President reviews the request and decides whether or not to grant an appeal. If the appeal is granted, the President requests the NAS Council to appoint an Appeal Committee consisting of at least five (5) Council members.
- Following review of the record, the Appeal Committee renders its decision and communicates it to the President, who notifies the member of the decision, which is final.
- The cognizant officer notifies all parties of the final decision and course of action.
- All aspects of the inquiry into alleged misconduct will be treated in strict confidence, but although the process is confidential, including the membership of the Assessment Panel, the outcome is not.

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\* The NAS cannot undertake investigations of alleged violations except those that deal with internal matters, e.g., confidentiality with respect to discussions of candidates for NAS election or the deliberations of NAS and NRC committees, or matters involving PNAS. All other allegations must be supported by the official record of the outcome of an investigation by an organization with jurisdiction over the complaint, usually an employer, journal, or funding agency.