Equitable Letters in Space Physics (ELSP)

Dr. Angeline G. Burrell¹ (executive director), Dr. John Coxon², Dr. Alexa Halford³, Dr. McArthur Jones Jr.¹, Dr. Kate Zawdie¹

1 U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, USA; 2 University of Southampton, UK; 3 NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, USA



Our Mission

Encouraging merit-based recommendations and nominations in the space physics community by providing resources and reviews.

Visit our website: https://equitableletterssp.github.io/ELSP/

We are currently looking for volunteers to become reviewers. Email us: equitable.space.letters@gmail.com



Our Website

Our website provides resources that helps submitters to write more equitable letters of recommendations:

- A list of studies that demonstrates how gender bias shows up in recommendation letters.
- Help on writing a good letter for your student or colleague:
- General letter writing advice.
- Gender bias word calculator.
- Advice for addressing racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic bias.
- Guidelines to help avoid including protected information.
- Links to organisations and projects aiming to open up discussions on reducing implicit bias.

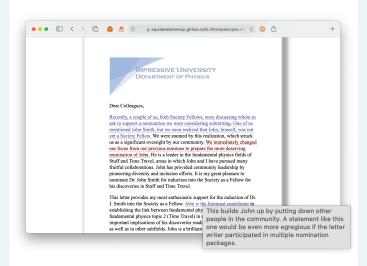
Sample Letters

We provide examples of different ways you can accidently undermine someone in a recommendation or nomination letter. Sample letters include gender bias (which can negatively affect any gender) and racial bias for different career levels.

Submitting a letter

The submitter may ensure an anonymous review by using pseudonyms in the letter. (Some information must be provided to ELSP to ensure the intended recipient is not used as a reviewer!)

- Letters are submitted to ESLP email (accessible to directors)
- Executive Director reviews submission for compliance, asking for changes if necessary
- Reviewers are solicited (two reviewers per letter)
- Executive Director compiles reviews and returns them to the submitter



Reviewing a letter

- Reviewer information is not provided to the submitters.
- An annual ELSP community report will thank reviewers.
- Training for reviewers is being developed.
- A checklist will guide the review process.
- You can always say "no" if you're too busy to accept a review, and we request a two week turn-around.

We hope to open for letter review shortly.

Code of Conduct

Our code of conduct is based on the Contributor Covenant 2.0. We provide examples of desirable and unacceptable behaviour, and a framework for dealing with infractions and disputes.

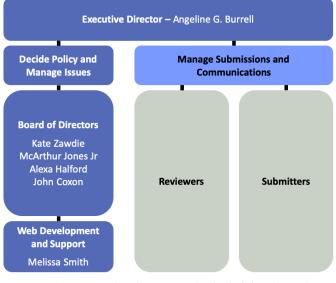
Other Ways to Help

This is a community, volunteer-led project. We would love to receive webpage bug reports, suggestions for additional resources, and ideas for improvement. Please visit our GitHub to contribute: https://github.com/EquitableLettersSP/ELSP

Community Growth

We aim to be transparent and welcoming:

- In one year, we will provide a report to the community.
- •The Board of Directors will have annual elections for some positions, and each position has a limited term.
- Executive Director position is a two-year position, preventing burn-out.



Drs. Burrell, Jones, Jr. and Zawdie are supported by the Chief of Naval Research.