

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY FOR COMMUNICATIONS
IN THE DIGITAL AGE
Charter**

A. The Committee’s Official Designation

The official designation of this federal advisory committee is the “Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age.”

B. The Committee’s Objective and Scope of its Activities

The communications sector is a vital part of the American economy. To grow and continue to provide services needed by the American people, the communications sector needs to tap the strength and vibrancy that flows from the diversity of the American people. In order to create an environment whereby all Americans, including minorities and women, have access to opportunities to participate in the communications industries, the Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age is hereby chartered pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The mission of the Advisory Committee for Diversity in the Digital Age (hereinafter the “Committee”) is to make recommendations to the Federal Communications Commission (hereinafter the “Commission”) regarding policies and practices that will further enhance the ability of minorities and women to participate in the telecommunications and related industries.

One of the FCC’s responsibilities under the Communications Act is “to make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide wire and radio communications service....” 47 U.S.C.§151. See also, 47 U.S.C. § 257, directing the FCC to work toward elimination of market entry barriers in order “to promote the policies and purposes of this Act favoring diversity of media voices, vigorous economic competition, technological advancement, and promotion of the public interest, convenience and necessity. These goals can best be achieved by ensuring that as broad a cross-section of the public as possible has the opportunity to own and/or manage communications and communications related companies. Consequently, the Commission is forming this Diversity Committee to ensure that it regulates the communications industry in a manner consistent with these goals.

Issues or questions to be considered by the Committee will include, but are not limited to the following topic areas:

- Financial issues, such as access to capital;
- Transactional transparency and related outreach;
- Career Advancement
- The impact of new and emerging technologies (e.g., availability of Broadband, digital television, cable, satellite, low power FM, and the convergence of these and emerging technologies) on diversity issues,

C. Period of Time Necessary for the Committee to Carry Out its Purpose

Initially, the Committee is established for a period of two (2) years from the original charter date.

D. Official to Whom the Committee Reports

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission.

E. Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support

The Federal Communications Commission will provide the facilities and support staff necessary to conduct meetings of the Committee. Committee members will not be compensated for their services.

F. Description of the Duties for Which the Committee is Responsible

In keeping with its advisory role, the duties of the Committee will be to provide guidance to the Commission on policies and practices that could increase the diversity of ownership and create opportunities for minorities and women to advance to managerial positions in the communications sector as well as other related sectors of the economy. Specifically, the Committee will make reports and recommendations concerning the need for any guidelines, incentives, regulations or other policy approaches to promote diversity of participation in the communications sector. The Committee will also develop a description of best practices within the communications sector for promoting diversity of participation. The Committee will also gather data and information and to perform those analyses that are necessary to respond to these and other questions or matters before it.

G. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Staff Years

Annual operating costs associated with supporting the Committees functions are estimated to be \$10,000, per year, exclusive of material and all services furnished by the Commission.

H. Estimated Number and Frequency of Committee Meetings

The Committee shall meet a minimum of two (2) times per year. The Committee is authorized to facilitate its work through informal subcommittees, which shall report their activities and recommendations to the Committee as a whole. It is anticipated that the work of subcommittees will be conducted primarily through telephone calls, e-mail correspondence, and e-mail discussion lists. Recommendations of subcommittees must be reported to the Committee as a whole, and only as modified or ratified by the Committee as a whole, may such recommendations be included in the official record of the Committee proceedings, and reported to the Chairman of the Commission.

I. Committee's Termination Date

The Committee shall terminate two (2) years from the renewal date of this charter, unless renewed prior to the termination date. A decision whether to renew shall include input from the Committee members.

J. Membership

Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Commission in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee and appropriate Commission staff. Members will be selected to balance the expertise and viewpoints that are necessary to address effectively the issues to be considered by the Committee. Members will be recognized experts in their fields, including but not limited to, the technology, media, and telecommunications sectors, equipment manufacturers, and consumer groups. Members should be prepared to attend a minimum of two (2) meetings per year of the Committee, and are also expected to participate regularly in the deliberations of subcommittees.

Members will have an initial and continuing obligation to disclose any interests in, or connections to, persons or entities who are, or will be, regulated by, or who have interests before the Commission.

K. Chairperson

The Chairperson of the Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Commission. The Chairpersons of any subcommittees shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Committee.

L. Meetings

Meetings shall be open to the public and timely notice of each meeting shall be published in the Federal Register, and shall be further publicized through other appropriate vehicles. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th edition, Perseus Books, © 2000. Records of the proceedings will be kept, as required by applicable laws and regulations. Meetings of the Committee will also be broadcast over the Internet.

M. Date of Original Charter

September 2, 2003.