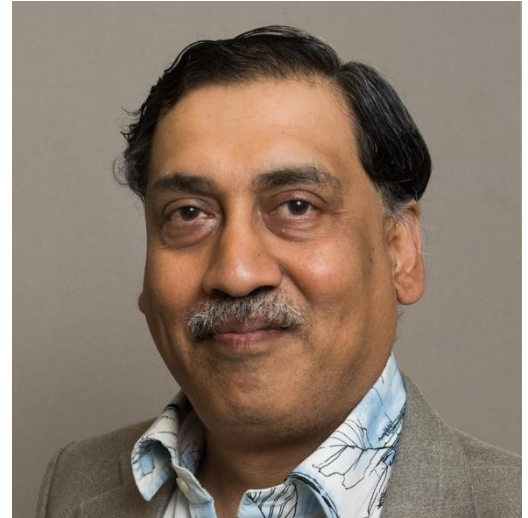


# Vikram Dwarkadas: Candidate for At-Large Trustee



**Affiliation:** University of Chicago

**Position/Title:** Research Professor

**PhD institution:** University of Virginia, 1997

**Areas of scientific interest:**

- Stellar winds and wind-blown nebulae
- Supernovae and supernova remnants: evolution, X-ray and Gamma-ray emission, interpretation of multiwavelength emission
- Numerical simulations and modelling
- X-ray observations and analysis
- Formation of the solar system,  $^{26}\text{Al}$  and  $^{60}\text{Fe}$  in the early solar system

**AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:**

- n/a

**Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:**

- Editor, *Universe*, 2020 – present
- Member, Organizing Committee, “Big Ideas in Astronomy” grants and essay competition, 2012
- Member, Sustainability Council, University of Chicago, 2011 – 2016
- Member, Energy and Climate Committee, University of Chicago, 2011 – 2012
- Recipient, SAGE Award, University of Chicago, for leadership and commitment to sustainability on campus, 2011
- Co-Chair, Campaigns Committee, Sustainability Council, University of Chicago, 2010 – 2011

**Statement:**

I am honored and humbled to be nominated to stand for the position of At-Large Trustee. The Board of Trustees is entrusted with the responsibility of governing the AAS, a responsibility that I take very seriously.

The past three years have highlighted the inequalities and disparities that exist in our country. The American Astronomical Society, as the pre-eminent Society for astronomers, needs to

function within this environment, while working for the betterment of astronomers at all levels. Its values of curiosity, integrity, inclusivity, empowerment and sustainability are certainly admirable. It is my goal, and my pledge, to ensure that these values are upheld in the Society's everyday practices and events.

Curiosity is why most of us got into astronomy in the first place.

Integrity is always desirable, and I will strive to make sure that the Society fulfills its actions with complete integrity and transparency, even if it means challenging certain practices.

Inclusivity is often talked about. At the same time, registration fees for the Society's premier event, the winter meeting, are the largest they have ever been. The reasons are valid, but it certainly represents a barrier to participation for those not having the means and ability to pay to attend. And while open access journals are admirable to make research accessible to all, steep publishing fees prevent those without the means from getting their work published in the first place. Those without substantial grant funding can be highly disadvantaged. Funding problems often severely affect minorities, and those at smaller colleges, thus decreasing diversity. As a research professor supported by grants, I am well aware of these problems. I will work with the Society and board members to provide solutions, which are not going to be easy or convenient.

Throughout my career I have worked to mentor younger members, especially undergraduate students. I have had almost 40 undergraduate students work with me, with more than half being female and minority students. I have also worked with Chicago Public school students for almost two decades. Empowering our younger members to succeed, and giving them the resources to do so, will be something that I will continue to persevere with as a board member.

I have been a member of my university's Sustainability Council and received an award for my leadership. Sustainability goes hand in hand with implementing measures to reduce the effects of climate change. I feel the AAS can make an immediate impact here, by imposing sustainable practices at its events, using compostable and recyclable materials and eliminating wastage. Eliminating travel to meetings is difficult and counterproductive, but making it optional can benefit those who would not be able to attend otherwise.

As a research professor and person of color, I have a different viewpoint that would serve the Society well. I assure you that I will give my best to achieving the Society's strategic goals, and implementing the recommendations of the Astro2020 Decadal Survey, while ensuring that the Society serves the interest of all members. Thank You.