

Gregory H. Rudnick

Candidate for At-Large Trustee

Affiliation: University of Kansas

Position/Title: Professor

PhD institution: University of Arizona, 2001



Areas of scientific interest:

I am an expert on observational studies of galaxy evolution, with an emphasis on studying how environment affects galaxies over a large range in cosmic time. I do my research with a wide variety of telescopes ranging from small 1-meter class facilities all the way up to the largest telescopes on the ground and in space. My research is multi-wavelength in nature and I have published papers using data from the X-ray to the radio, and most wavelengths in between.

AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:

- Member, Committee on the Status of Women in Astronomy (CSWA), American Astronomical Society, 2017 – present

Other relevant positions, experience, and dates:

- Chair, NASA Fellowship Panel, 2021
- Sole recipient, University of Kansas Community Engaged Scholarship Award, 2020 (*for founding and running a year-long research-based outreach program at Lawrence High School. This program targets students from traditionally marginalized groups and has run continuously from 2013 to the present.*)
- Member, Scientific Organizing Committee, Annual Mid-America Regional Astrophysics Conference, 2008 – present
- Director of Graduate Studies, Physics & Astronomy Department, University of Kansas, 2013 – 2022
- US Representative, Board of Directors, Gemini International Observatory, 2019 – 2021
- Sole recipient, University of Kansas Louise E. Byrd Graduate Educator Award, 2019
- Member, The Gemini, Blanco, Soar telescope renewal subcommittee of the Federal Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee, 2018 – 2019
- Member, Organizing Committee, Conference on Undergraduate Women in Physics, University of Kansas, 2018
- Author of successful application for APS Bridge Partnership Status for University of Kansas Department of Physics & Astronomy, 2018

- One of four recipients, University of Kansas University Scholarly Achievement Award, 2016
- Member, National Study Organizing Committee, and chapter editor for NSF and Kavli Foundation funded Working Group “Maximizing Science in the Era of LSST: A Community-based Study of Needed US OIR Capabilities”, 2015 – 2016
- Chair or member of SOC for seven international scientific conferences spanning the time frame 2015 – present
- Panel chair, NASA, 2015
- Panel member, NASA, 2013 – 2014
- Panel member, NSF, 2011 – 2012

Statement:

It is an honor to be nominated as an AAS Board of Trustee (BoT) candidate and I am excited to share with you the areas in which I will focus. The AAS is a pillar of the astronomical community. It runs the meetings, which are venues for networking, career advancement, sharing of science, and keeping the community informed. It has the scope, breadth, and influence to implement effective initiatives that promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB). It also plays an important role in improving the mentoring of early career astronomers, especially those from traditionally marginalized groups or non-traditional career paths.

I have significant experience in advocating for these causes. At KU I worked as departmental Director of Graduate Studies for 11 years, during which time I helped create an inclusive and equitable environment and to recruit and retain a diverse graduate student body. I have worked successfully to improve our departmental mentoring for graduate students, I wrote our successful APS Bridge Partnership proposal, and have served on both the DEIB and Bridge Program Oversight Committee. I will take these experiences to my position as a Trustee.

At the national level, I have been a member of the Committee for the Status of Women in Astronomy (CSWA) since 2017 and have taken on high impact projects that enhance the role of women in astronomy using an intersectional framework. I helped to design and implement a large community survey to plan for the future of the CSWA. That survey informed a set of white papers that I co-authored that were submitted to the Astro2020 Decadal Survey. I also helped to write the CSWA Strategic Plan for the 2020s and have been leading the group that is implementing this plan through a set of well-defined projects. Finally, I am a lead co-author on two substantive papers that the CSWA is about to submit to the Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society. These papers contain recommendations to the AAS on how to improve the conditions for women in Astronomy, focusing in three areas: Eliminating Harassment and Bullying, Advancing Career Development, and Continuously Improving AAS meetings. If elected as an at-large Trustee I will work to implement these recommendations.

Realizing maximum impact requires sustained and collaborative efforts among different AAS DEIB committees (e.g. CSMA, SGMA, CSWA, WGAD). These committees are staffed by amazing

and dedicated volunteers, but their capacity is limited. I have seen the difficulty in coordinating their activities and it is clear that this coordination requires active support from the AAS. I will work to bring these committees physically and virtually together for meetings among members and leadership. Hiring and retaining an AAS committee support specialist is an important element of this goal.

I will also work on improving the AAS support for early-career mentoring. If it is possible to do that by improving the use of the currently employed Mentoring365 platform then I will advocate to do so, but I will also be open to other mentoring frameworks should they be required.