

# Vivian U

## Candidate for Nominating Committee

**Affiliation:** University of California, Irvine

**Position/Title:** Research Astronomer

**PhD institution:** University of Hawaii, Manoa, 2012

**Areas of scientific interest:**

- Supermassive black holes
- Active galaxies
- Interacting galaxies
- Galaxy Evolution
- Ground- and Space-based Instrumentation

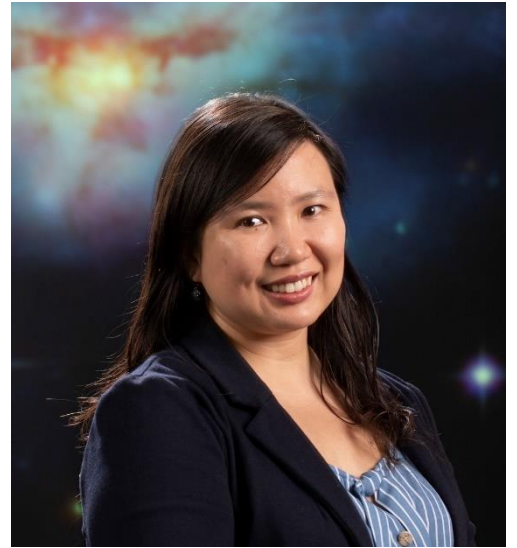
**AAS and/or Division leadership positions and dates:**

- AAS Agent for the University of California, Irvine, 2022 – present

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

- Representative, US Liaison Committee, International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, Commission on Astrophysics C19, 2021 – present
- Member, Leadership Council, NASA Cosmic Origins Active Galactic Nuclei Science Interest Group, 2022 – present
- Member, Climate Council, University of California Irvine School of Physical Science, 2022 – present
- Member, Committee on Inclusive Excellence, University of California Irvine, 2017 – present
- Member, Executive Committee, University of California Irvine Women in Physics and Astronomy, 2015 – 2021
- Member, Advisory Council, Campus Climate, Culture, and Inclusion, University of California Irvine, 2017 – 2020
- Member, Regional Organizing Committee, Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics, 2019 – 2020

**Statement:**



I am honored to be considered a candidate to serve on the AAS Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is charged with nominating various Society officer and At-Large trustee positions for election by members while serving to uphold the AAS mission and vision. As is reflected by our community's practice and value today, the mission of the AAS is to enhance and share humanity's scientific understanding of the universe \_as a diverse and inclusive\_ astronomical community. The leadership of our professional society should therefore be representative of the members that it serves, and the job of ensuring this representation befalls those of the Nominating Committee members.

It thrills me that diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are prioritized not only by the AAS, but also highlighted by the Astro Decadal survey and valued by federal agencies. The systemic support is needed to ensure that resources exist to improve the structural changes envisioned by the community, and this concrete effort needs to be reflected among AAS leadership as well. Having served on numerous dual anonymous review panels, I have experienced first-hand the equitable moments one enjoys when certain privileges are deprioritized and biases are minimized. At the same time, it is challenging to accommodate all axes of marginalization given the intersectionality of identities. We must be aware of our own biases and learn to overcome them with continual education and course correction. If elected to the nominating committee, I will solicit input from colleagues to identify the missing gap in representation among AAS leadership, and promote those who both excel in science and commit to improving the state of the profession for our community.