

taking further action in response to the final rejection expires on (1) the mailing date of the notice of decision; or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. As discussed previously, to avoid abandonment, the applicant must file a notice of appeal or RCE within the statutory period for response to the final rejection. Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a), but the period for response may not be extended beyond the six-month statutory period for response.

A notice of decision indicating “final rejection upheld” is not petitionable. A decision to maintain a rejection is subject to appeal. Accordingly, the Office will not grant a petition seeking reconsideration of a panel decision upholding the final rejection. The applicant maintains the right of appeal under 35 U.S.C. 134 by filing a notice of appeal and an appeal brief and having the appeal considered by the PTAB.

#### b. Allowable Application

If the notice of decision indicates “allowable application,” the notice of decision will be mailed concurrently with a Notice of Allowance, and the notice of decision will state that the rejection(s) is/are withdrawn

#### c. Reopen Prosecution

If the notice of decision indicates “reopen prosecution,” the notice of decision will state that the rejection(s) is/are withdrawn and a new Office action will be mailed. The notice of decision also will state that no further action is required by the applicant until further notice.

#### 4. Actions That Will Terminate a Post-Prosecution Pilot Conference

If the applicant files any of the following after the date of filing a P3 request, but prior to a notice of decision from the panel of examiners, processing of the P3 request will end without a decision on the merits of the P3 request: a notice of appeal; a RCE; an express abandonment under 37 CFR 1.138; a request for the declaration of interference; or a petition requesting the institution of a derivation proceeding. The response and any proposed amendment filed with the request will be treated under 37 CFR 1.116 in the same manner as any non-P3 response to a final rejection. The next communication issued by the Office will indicate the reason that processing of the P3 request was terminated, the result of the treatment under 37 CFR 1.116 of the response and any proposed amendment filed with the request, and

the time period for the applicant to take any further action that may be required as dictated by the facts.

In addition, as stated earlier, once a P3 request has been accepted in response to a final rejection, no additional response under 37 CFR 1.116 to the same final rejection will be entered, other than one that the examiner has requested because the examiner agrees it would place the application in condition for allowance. This condition of the P3 holds true regardless of whether the additional response is filed prior to, on the same day as, or after a notice of decision from the panel of examiners.

Finally, at any point during the processing of a P3 request, the examiner may enter an Examiner’s Amendment placing the application in condition for allowance.

#### III. Request for Comments

The Office has three main goals for the P3: (1) Increase the value of after final practice; (2) reduce the number of appeals and the issues to be taken on appeal to the PTAB and the number of RCEs; and (3) streamline the options available to an applicant during after final practice. The Office is requesting public comment on the P3 and other suggestions to improve after final practice and reduce the number of both appeals and issues taken up for appeal to the PTAB and RCEs. The Office plans to evaluate the public feedback and the balance between the degree to which the P3 achieves its goals and the examining resources it expends. The Office will provide advance notification before modifying and/or extending the P3 or making the P3 permanent.

Dated: July 7, 2016.

**Michelle K. Lee,**

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2016-16423 Filed 7-8-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### **Board of Regents, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense; Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (“the University”).

**ACTION:** Quarterly meeting notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Defense is publishing this notice to announce the

following meeting of the Board of Regents, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (“the Board”).

**DATES:** Tuesday, August 2, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. (Open Session) and 10:50 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. (Closed Session).

**ADDRESSES:** Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Everett Alvarez Jr. Board of Regents Room (D3001), Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jennifer Nuetzi James, Designated Federal Officer, 4301 Jones Bridge Road, D3002, Bethesda, Maryland 20814; telephone 301-295-3066; email [jennifer.nuetzi-james@usuhs.edu](mailto:jennifer.nuetzi-james@usuhs.edu).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This meeting notice is being published under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended), the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended), and 41 CFR 102-3.150.

*Purpose of the Meeting:* The purpose of the meeting is to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Defense, through the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, on academic and administrative matters critical to the full accreditation and successful operation of the University. These actions are necessary for the University to pursue its mission, which is to educate, train and comprehensively prepare uniformed services health professionals, officers, scientists and leaders to support the Military and Public Health Systems, the National Security and National Defense Strategies of the United States, and the readiness of our Uniformed Services.

*Agenda:* The actions scheduled to occur include the review of the minutes from the Board meeting held on May 20, 2016; recommendations regarding the awarding of post-baccalaureate degrees; recommendations regarding the approval of faculty appointments and promotions; and recommendations regarding award nominations. The University President will provide a report on recent actions affecting academic and operational aspects of the University. Member Reports will include an Academics Summary consisting of reports from the Dean of the School of Medicine, Dean of the Graduate School of Nursing, Executive Dean of the Postgraduate Dental College, and the Vice President for Research. Member Reports will also include a Finance and Administration Summary consisting of reports from the Senior Vice President, Southern Region; Senior Vice President, Western Region; Vice

President for Finance and Administration; the USU Brigade; and the Office of General Counsel. The Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI) and the President of the USU Faculty Senate will both provide annual updates; a report will be provided on USU interprofessional education, and the meeting will conclude with a report from The American Genome Center at USU. A closed session will be held, after the open session, to discuss active investigations and personnel actions.

**Meeting Accessibility:** Pursuant to Federal statutes and regulations (5 U.S.C. Appendix, 5 U.S.C. 552b, and 41 CFR 102–3.140 through 102–3.165) and the availability of space, the meeting is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Seating is on a first-come basis. Members of the public wishing to attend the meeting should contact Jennifer Nuetzi James no later than five business days prior to the meeting, at the address and phone number noted in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(2, 5–7), the Department of Defense has determined that the portion of the meeting from 10:50 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. shall be closed to the public. The Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), in consultation with the Office of the Department of Defense General Counsel, has determined in writing that this portion of the committee's meeting will be closed as the discussion will disclose sensitive personnel information, will include matters that relate solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the agency, will involve allegations of a person having committed a crime or censuring an individual, and may disclose investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes.

**Written Statements:** Pursuant to section 10(a)(3) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 and 41 CFR 102–3.140, the public or interested organizations may submit written comments to the Board about its approved agenda pertaining to this meeting or at any time regarding the Board's mission. Individuals submitting a written statement must submit their statement to the Designated Federal Officer at the address listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. Written statements that do not pertain to a scheduled meeting of the Board may be submitted at any time. However, if individual comments pertain to a specific topic being discussed at the planned meeting, then these statements must be received at least 5 calendar days prior to the meeting, otherwise, the

comments may not be provided to or considered by the Board until a later date. The Designated Federal Officer will compile all timely submissions with the Board's Chair and ensure such submissions are provided to Board Members before the meeting.

Dated: July 5, 2016.

**Aaron Siegel,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 2016–16228 Filed 7–8–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 5001–06–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

[Docket No. EERE–2013–BT–NOC–0005]

### Solicitation of Nominations for Membership on the Appliance Standards and Rulemaking Federal Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Solicitation of nominations for membership.

**SUMMARY:** To ensure a wide range of candidates and a balanced committee, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces the solicitation of nominations to fill upcoming vacancies on the Appliance Standards and Rulemaking Federal Advisory Committee.

**DATES:** All nomination information should be provided in a single, complete package submitted electronically or postmarked August 10, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Nominations packages should be submitted either electronically or by mail, but not by both methods. Complete nomination packages identified by docket number EERE–2013–BT–NOC–0005 may be submitted by any of the following methods:

1. **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
2. **Email:** [ASRAC@ee.doe.gov](mailto:ASRAC@ee.doe.gov). Include docket number EERE–2013–BT–NOC–0005 in the subject line of the message.
3. **Mail:** Ms. Emily Marchetti, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Office, Mailstop EE–5B, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585–0121. If possible, please submit all items on a compact disc (CD), in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies.
4. **Hand Delivery/Courier:** Ms. Emily Marchetti, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Office, 950

L'Enfant Plaza SW., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20024. Telephone: (202) 586–1824. If possible, please submit all items on a CD, in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies. No telefacsimilies (faxes) will be accepted.

It is recommended that nominations be submitted in electronic format via email to [asrac@ee.doe.gov](mailto:asrac@ee.doe.gov). Submissions submitted by mail are welcome, but may be delayed in delivery due to the DOE mail vetting procedures in place. For submission by mail, please send to Ms. Emily Marchetti, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Office, Mailstop EE–5B, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121. If possible, please submit all items on a compact disc (CD), in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on the DOE's Appliance and Equipment Standards Program's test procedures and rulemaking determinations. The Committee's scope is to review and make recommendations on the: (1) Development of minimum efficiency standards for residential appliances and commercial equipment, (2) development of product test procedures, (3) certification and enforcement of standards, (4) labeling for various residential products and commercial equipment, and (5) specific issues of concern to DOE as requested by the Secretary of Energy, the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and the Buildings Technologies Office's Director.

To facilitate the functioning of the Committee, working group (*i.e.*, subcommittees) may be formed with the approval of the Department of Energy. The objectives of the working groups are to make recommendations to the parent committee with respect to particular matters related to the responsibilities of the parent committee. Such working groups may not work independently of the chartered committee and must report their recommendations and advice to the full committee for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittee members are appointed with DOE approval.

DOE is hereby soliciting nominations for members of the Appliance Standards and Rulemaking Federal Advisory Committee. The Committee is expected to be continuing in nature. Members will be selected with a view toward achieving a balanced committee of experts in fields relevant to energy efficiency, appliance and commercial