

Federal Advisory Committees Act (FACA)

- Enacted in 1972.
- Two main goals: Transparency and efficiency.
- Applies to all bodies established or utilized by the Federal Government to solicit advice or recommendations from the public.
- The Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) is one of 18 active committees of the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Transparency
 - All meetings have notices published in the Federal Register at least 15 days in advance.
 - Virtually all meetings are open to the public. Only a few topics, such as national security, proprietary information involved in a Federal grant application, or personnel matters, justify closing a meeting to the public.
 - The public will have an opportunity to comment at every meeting.
 - All committee reports, recommendations, meeting minutes, and other documents are available to the public.
- Efficiency
 - Each committee has a Federal employee designated to make sure it runs efficiently and effectively (Designated Federal Officer [DFO]).
 - Every year, each committee provides a detailed report to the General Services Administration on its costs and activities.
 - Every two years, each committee has to renew its charter and justify its continuing value.
- For Committee Members
 - Remember that all recommendations made to FAA have to come from the full ARAC.
 - Always include the FAA in any email correspondence about ARAC business (9-AWA-ARAC@faa.gov)
 - Try to avoid discussing ARAC topics with each other outside of meetings.