

OG FAC Q&A Session on May 10, 2024

Actual Start Time: 5/10/2024 12:34:30

Actual Duration (minutes): 113

Question During Meeting: 51

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#	Question	Asker Name	Answer	Question Time	Answered Time	Answer Name	Upvotes
1	Is the directorate considering development of a standard or protocol for exchanging data across organizational boundaries? Examples include FIXML, FpML and XBRL in financial services. These standards enable thousands of financial market participants to exchange data in real time across organizational boundaries.	Justin Magruder	At this point it's hard to tell, what Open Government recommendations the Committee will provide, however it is conceivable that the Committee might include recommendation around creating a standard or protocol for exchanging data across organizational boundaries.	May 10, 2024 13:08:50	May 10, 2024 13:15:35	Daniel York	2
2	Is the directorate considering whether to establish data quality standards for open data, including key data and meta data quality standards like completeness, validity, timeliness and accuracy, among others?	Justin Magruder	At this point it's hard to tell, what Open Government recommendations the Committee will provide, however it is conceivable that the Committee might include recommendation around creating data quality standards for open data, including key data and meta data quality standards like completeness, validity.	May 10, 2024 13:10:32	May 10, 2024 13:16:24	Daniel York	2
3	For a decade, White House officials never showed us a slide that told us what we said or shared wouldn't be considered on policy, including the head of OIRA, Cass Sunstein. Why does this Secretariat now show a slide that explicitly tells the public & advocates that the GSA "does not intend to use any individual or collective opinion as a guideline in the formulation of any agency policy or regulation" when you're literally asking us for comment? This was notable in the recent OMB session asking for feedback. The NARA FAC for FOIA doesn't do this for our meetings.	Alex Howard	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:11:04	May 10, 2024 14:00:41	laura szakmary	0
4	As the White House said for 5 years, U.S. National Action Plans "are intended to be living documents, and the Administration plans to add additional commitments. If you have suggestions for new initiatives, share them with opengov@ostp.gov." https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/open/partnership/national-action-plans Why is the Biden-Harris administration refusing to revise or add new commitments to a NAP 5.5, as the Obama-Harris administration repeatedly did, in order to address OGP IRM's finding that US government has acted contrary to practice multiple times since 2017? Will the White House do so for OpenGov Week last this May? https://opengovweek.org/	Alex Howard	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:14:42	May 10, 2024 14:02:46	laura szakmary	0
5	The Notice on the GSA Federal Advisory Committee stated that there may be meetings that are held as closed sessions. On what basis is an OC FAC meeting NOT open to the public? Will the agenda for "closed" meetings be published in advance? Will records of "closed meetings" also be available for public inspection?	Danielle Wallace	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:16:23	May 10, 2024 13:24:06	Alexis Masterson	2

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6	The U.S. Freedom of Information Act Advisory Committee was at the National Archives was established to fulfil a commitment in the second U.S. National Action Plan for Open Government. The AOTUS has just chartered a new term. The charter expressly seeks ten members who work on FOIA, with designated seats for individuals who have specific expertise. Is GSA designating seats for people who work at NGOs that advocate for open government? Why did the White House just ask for people "outside" of the open government field, given the need to attract Americans with specific expertise in government transparency and accountability in order to make this FACA an effective body for the described mission?	Alex Howard	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:19:35	May 10, 2024 14:06:52	Alexis Masterson	0
7	Good, it has created transparency and improved efficiency in global markets. I helped develop FpML (for global derivatives trading and risk management) and used FIXML and XBRL extensively and would like to contribute my time and body of knowledge if it would be helpful.	Justin Magruder	Thank you Justin, and we hope you consider applying to be a member of the OG FAC.	May 10, 2024 13:20:39	May 10, 2024 13:21:38	Daniel York	1
8	Is the public able to actively participate in those meetings, or just listen in?	Dominic Sale	Yes, Written public comments will be accepted through the life of the Committee and oral public comments will be permitted when the agenda allows.	May 10, 2024 13:21:54	May 10, 2024 13:25:10	Daniel York	1
9	Will the American public have an opportunity to comment on a draft OG FAC charter or draft by laws, or will the GSA introduce a final version? Will the GSA regard either as a living document, as the White House once did national open government plans?	Alex Howard	The OG FAC Charter is set by the GSA Administrator, but the Bi-Laws are written and approved by the Committee itself. I believe the bylaws process is open to the public.	May 10, 2024 13:22:38	May 10, 2024 13:27:23	Daniel York	0
10	re: personal contact information made publicly available, what specifically must be public?	Luke Fretwell	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:24:02	May 10, 2024 14:02:57	Daniel York	2
11	Aren't there special provisions that relate to the openness and availability of documents from GSA chartered FACA committee and subcommittee meetings?	Daniel Schuman	Yes, all meetings, documents, notes etc are public, and will be posted on the GSA OG FAC webpage.	May 10, 2024 13:24:15	May 10, 2024 13:29:39	Daniel York	1
12	Will civil society members of the committee need to have security clearance? Will this OG FAC include national security officials and discuss issues with overclassification, or will its proceedings only pertain to the work of civilian agencies?	Alex Howard	At this point, there is not an expectation for OG FAC Members to need to get a security clearance.	May 10, 2024 13:24:21	May 10, 2024 13:31:41	Daniel York	2
13	Daniel, will do.	Justin Magruder	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:24:45	May 10, 2024 14:02:54	Daniel York	0
14	If there is a different administration after this year, will OG FACA stay in place or is it at the discretion of the administration?	Jennifer boettcher	The OG FAC is a discretionary Committee, meaning it is chartered by the Administrator of GSA. Congress could pass a law requiring GSA to stand up and operate the OG FAC, at which point it would be a Committee required by statute, and not discretionary.	May 10, 2024 13:27:25	May 10, 2024 13:33:40	Daniel York	7
15	Why is the GSA pre-emptively allowing itself to limit public comment on an Open Government FAC? The NARA FOIA FACT "always" allows time for oral comment. Are you imposing a condition that would limit public participation, or taking public comment on it today and commit to taking oral comment?	Alex Howard	The agenda for each meeting is set by the Designated Federal Official (DFO) and Committee Chair. Given the OG FAC has not been stood up yet, and does not yet have an appointed Committee Chair, its premature to say what the agendas will always allow.	May 10, 2024 13:28:14	May 10, 2024 13:35:34	Daniel York	0
16	Can OG FAC members be recused from certain OG FAC discussions/topics to avoid potential conflicts of interest? If so, what is the process for recusal?	Danielle Wallace	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:28:37	May 10, 2024 13:43:36	Alexis Masterson	1

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17	Is there anything that would prevent a future GSA Administrator from dismissing the members of this OG FAC in 2025, as a former EPA Administrator did for that agency's scientific advisory board in 2017?	Alex Howard	As a discretionary committee, the GSA administrator terminate the committee or dismiss members.	May 10, 2024 13:30:36	May 10, 2024 14:02:56	Jeremy Anderson	0
18	Is it a limit of one nomination per organization?	Chris Raleigh	There are no limits on the number of nominations an organization can submit. All nominations should include a complete nomination package provided to GSA by May 28th.	May 10, 2024 13:30:36	May 10, 2024 13:42:02	Daniel York	1
19	Is the purview of the FACA set in stone? I note that many of the topics covered seem to be focused on items related to a more participatory and representative government versus a transparency focus. Not to say I don't think those are incredibly important, but it seems very broad. It may be difficult to find participants who have expertise in that diversity of topic areas.	Susan Harley, Public Citizen (she/hers)	The OG FAC is focused on Open Government broadly. The specific themes and commitments that they will recommend be included in NAP 6 is completely up to the Committee.	May 10, 2024 13:32:48	May 10, 2024 13:45:38	Daniel York	1
20	How will the term of service (1 year vs 3 years) be determined for each OG FAC member?	Danielle Wallace	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:33:47	May 10, 2024 13:44:44	Alexis Masterson	2
21	Is the nominee required to select one or multiple specific field(s) of expertise identified in the prior slide? Is the idea to pick one or more individual per "field", or will you be less prescriptive?	Dominic Sale	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:34:40	May 10, 2024 13:51:13	laura szakmary	5
22	And can we assume that former government employees will be treated as "public"? Asking for a friend. :)	Dominic Sale	Yes	May 10, 2024 13:36:42	May 10, 2024 13:45:53	Daniel York	2
23	What does a typical week or month look like for a committee member? What are some of the things a member could expect to be doing?	Robert Gradeck	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:37:43	May 10, 2024 13:46:41	Alexis Masterson	0
24	@Daniel To Susan's question — and mine – is this term of the OG Charter final, or would the Administrator consider taking public comment on the elements, like designating seats for people who, for instance, work at non-governmental organizations that advocate on open government, conduct research on government transparency, or similar? (The NARA FOIA FAC charter has these.)	Alex Howard	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:37:46	May 10, 2024 14:07:02	laura szakmary	0
25	When do you expect the OG FAC to begin work?	Suzanne Piotrowski	If all goes well, we hope to hold our first OG FAC meeting in early FY25	May 10, 2024 13:40:30	May 10, 2024 13:46:53	Daniel York	3
26	How does GSA plan to manage potential /actual Personal Conflicts of Interest (PCI) and/or Organizational Conflicts of Interest ("OCI")? Will GSA issue guidance/instructions?	Danielle Wallace	Jeremy Anderson (GSA FACA Attorney) will have to work with each Committee member on a case by case basis depending on what type of appointment they have.	May 10, 2024 13:40:45	May 10, 2024 13:48:09	Daniel York	0
27	What will be the makeup of the OG FAC from the government side? Will there be designated seats for someone from White House EOP, OMB, NSC, DSC, DOJ OIG, NARA, ODNI, or DOD? Will the GSA Administrator chair the committee? If not, who?	Alex Howard	All Committee members (including Federal Employees) need to submit a nomination and be appointed by the GSA Administrator. Our intent is to have 2/3 of members from the public/Civil Society and 1/3 of the members from Federal, State, Local, or Tribal Gov.	May 10, 2024 13:41:55	May 10, 2024 13:50:14	Daniel York	0
28	Can you discuss to what extent, if any, a FAC may communicate recommendations to Congress?	Daniel Schuman	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:43:08	May 10, 2024 13:59:13	laura szakmary	2

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29	Are there any recommendations that you have regarding what experiential and biographical information is most important to include in submissions? Also does who nominates you matter in our application? Would someone with experience in this field be helpful?	JP Thomas	We encourage each nominee to provide all relevant information to support their interest in serving as an Open Government Federal Advisory Committee member.	May 10, 2024 13:43:45	May 10, 2024 14:02:43	Daniel York	1
30	Will be paid for your time working on FACA business?	Jennifer boettcher	GSA Policy does not allow for GSA to pay Committee members for their time, however the policy does allow for GSA to reimburse Committee members for their travel to in person meetings at the Gov Per Diam Rate	May 10, 2024 13:44:16	May 10, 2024 13:51:32	Daniel York	3
31	Good morning. Is there an anticipated or contemplated first meeting date?	John Dierking	We hope to hold the first OG FAC meeting early in FY24.	May 10, 2024 13:44:33	May 10, 2024 13:52:02	Daniel York	1
32	The FOIA FAC at NARA is chartered to "o foster dialog between the Administration and the requester community, solicit public comments, and develop consensus recommendations for improving FOIA administration and proactive disclosures," which the AOTUS then approves. Will the GSA Administrator have authority to approve or turn down the OG FAC recs? to @Daniel's point, can the FAC make written or oral recommendations to Congress? How will OG FAC members be involved in the co-creation process for a sixth NAP, or not?	Alex Howard	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:46:43	May 10, 2024 14:07:54	Alexis Masterson	0
33	What norms or processes are in place to ensure that no one voice dominates at the FAC meetings? (I'm noticing some trends already in this Q and A.)	Courtney Gibbons	Our intent is that all public oral comments will be limited to 2 or 3 min per person.	May 10, 2024 13:48:34	May 10, 2024 13:55:28	Daniel York	4
34	What spectrum of experience levels are you hoping for? This is a euphamism for age range.	Lara Gale	The OG FAC seeks diverse individuals from the American society to serve on the Committee. We value opportunities to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility on our federal advisory committees and we encourage a cross-section of those directly affected, interested, and qualified to apply.	May 10, 2024 13:49:25	May 10, 2024 13:57:00	Daniel York	1
35	As I asked earlier, why wouldn't this FACA be invovled in NAP 5.5, reflecting the history of national action plans being living documents? As the GSA has acknowledged, the White House led an opaque consultation that did not reflect civil society priorities in 2022. Why wouldn't an OG FAC be involved in co-creating new "challenge commitments" aligned with the themes later in 2024 & 2025, reflecting the US government's interest in reclaiming global leadership after rejoining the OGP Steering Committee? https://www.opengovpartnership.org/the-open-gov-challenge/	Alex Howard	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:50:56	May 10, 2024 14:14:29	Daniel York	0
36	Who will be on the selection committee? And what is the timeline?	Laura Neuman	Members of the U.S. Open Government Secretariat, and will make recommendations to the GSA Administrator for appointments. At the end of the day, only the GSA Administrator can appoint OG FAC members.	May 10, 2024 13:51:21	May 10, 2024 13:58:47	Daniel York	2
37	Would membership in this committee cause any conflicts of interest with other federal interactions or relationships we may have, including but not limited to role as PI on federally-funded research.	Robert Gradeck	live answered	May 10, 2024 13:53:02	May 10, 2024 14:04:11	laura szakmary	2

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38	What is the process for the OG FAC members forming separate "working groups" or "subcommittees?"	Danielle Wallace	The process for making working groups and subcommittees will be outlined in the Committee's by-laws.	May 10, 2024 13:53:03	May 10, 2024 13:59:21	Jeremy Anderson	1
39	The OpenGovChallenge themes: https://www.opengovpartnership.org/the-open-gov-challenge/	Alex Howard		May 10, 2024 13:57:06			
40	Noting that my question has been answered. (And apologies for having forgotten that participation was part of the OGP definition of "open.")	Susan Harley, Public Citizen (she/hers)	Thank you for attending, and please let us know if you have any other questions!	May 10, 2024 13:57:40	May 10, 2024 14:00:47	Daniel York	0
41	(I was trying to make sure there was nothing stopping the FAC from communicating with congress recommendations it might have)	Daniel Schuman	Correct, the work of the OG FAC is all public, and there is nothing provending communications to Congress.	May 10, 2024 13:59:05	May 10, 2024 14:00:07	Daniel York	1
42	In our FOIA FACA, the Chair (OGIS Director) moderates the public meetings & subcommittee chairs moderate our subcommittee chairs, ensures all members' voices are heard and none dominate. Who will chair this FOIA FACA? Can there be a civill society co-chair, reflecting the balance OGP looks for? Or a vice chair?	Alex Howard	live answered	May 10, 2024 14:06:52	May 10, 2024 14:10:18	Daniel York	0
43	Can GSA confirm that the OG FAC will not discuss source selection information or contractor proprietary information during any OG FAC public or private meetings (to include working groups or subcommittee meetings)?	Danielle Wallace	live answered	May 10, 2024 14:07:28	May 10, 2024 14:11:41	laura szakmary	1
44	There appear to be many resources to review online. Are there 3 primary resources the team may point to to have a clear understanding of the work, how to apply, and what to expect as a selected member?	Jennifer Cercone	live answered	May 10, 2024 14:07:56	May 10, 2024 14:09:30	laura szakmary	1
45	Would the WH NSC & DPC be able to reject drafted commitments from the OG FAC for NAP 6.0? If so, why is the FAC at GSA instead of at the White House, reflecting where power and policy sits?	Alex Howard	live answered	May 10, 2024 14:08:47	May 10, 2024 14:12:32	laura szakmary	0
46	Is the Open Government Directive issued by OMB in 2009 still in effect?	Stephen Buckley	It is still in effect.	May 10, 2024 14:13:02	May 10, 2024 14:14:21	laura szakmary	1
47	If it hasn't been sunsetted, why does not wh.gov/open exist? Or gsa.gov/open with a new plan? OMB doesn't come to these calls.	Alex Howard	live answered	May 10, 2024 14:14:24	May 10, 2024 14:14:46	Alexis Masterson	0
48	Is there a link to the application?	Dominic Sale	https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/26/2024-08970/notice-of-intent-to-establish-a-federal-advisory-committee-and-call-for-nominations provides the instructions on how to submit a nomination	May 10, 2024 14:14:58	May 10, 2024 14:16:05	Daniel York	0
49	The DHS advisory committee on openness and transparency published a wonderful set of recommendations on open government that are already drafted: https://www.dhs.gov/publication/openness-and-transparency-dhs-subcommittee-final-report Would the GSA consider adopting them for OpenGovWeek? Would the Secretariat consider to collaboratively co-creating a new agency open government plan for GSA for 2024-2026, to model good governance? NARA and Commerce both reportedly plan to draft new plans.	Alex Howard		May 10, 2024 14:18:27			
50	Thank you for the presentation. Great information on the exceedingly important work of the FAC and the nomination process. I wish all a terrific weekend!	John Dierking	Thank you	May 10, 2024 14:23:41	May 10, 2024 14:26:43	Daniel York	1

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51	Thanks	Robert Gradeck	Thank you	May 10, 2024 14:23:45	May 10, 2024 14:26:53	Daniel York	0

Question recieved before Meeting: 13

#	Question	Asker Name	Answer	Question Time	Answered Time	Answer Name	Upvotes
1	Would you consider removing the requirement to include someone else's resume or CV?	Roshan Bliss	Being on a Federal Advisory Committee is a lot of work, so we would recommend you contact people you want to nominate to ensure they have the ability to fully participate. Likewise, we encourage each nominee to provide all relevant information to support their interest in serving as an Open Government Federal Advisory Committee member. Therefore we did not set a page limit for submissions.	N/A	N/A	Arthur Brunson	N/A
2	Is there a page limit for Resumes/CV?	Adam Cummings		N/A	N/A	Arthur Brunson	N/A
3	How much published experience is necessary to apply?	Bentley Hensel		N/A	N/A	Arthur Brunson	N/A
4	Would members of the OpenGov FAC be allowed to participate remotely (without going to D.C.)?	Stephen Buckley	The Committee Chair and the Designated Federal Officers will determine which meetings are virtual, which are in person only, and which are hybrid based on that meetings agenda. The meeting announcement in the Federal Register will note whether a particular meeting is virtual, in person only, or hybrid. That being said, at this point we anticipated that most meetings will have the option for virtual participation. Also, GSA policy permits members serving on a GSA Federal Advisory Committee to be reimbursed for their travel at the government per diem rates for in person meetings. Budget permitting, we hope to make this benefit available to members of the OG FAC.	N/A	N/A	Arthur Brunson	N/A
5	Question about the meetings, are they in person or Zoom? Overall, what is the estimated time commitment of a committee member?	Benita Duran	The amount of time a OG FAC member can expect to spend doing Committee related work may vary week to week or month to month, but at this point we expect that Regular members should expect to commit an average of about 5 hours a week to the Committee, and the Chair / Co-Chair should expect to commit an average of about 10 hours a week to the Committee. The meetings will be open to the public and the Committee is expected to meet at least four times a year.	N/A	N/A	Arthur Brunson	N/A
6	How many hours of work are expected per person, per year?	Sarah Schacht	accountability, and citizen participation.	N/A	N/A	Arthur Brunson	N/A
7	What does success look like for the OG FAC? Who will 'own' the work streams?	Ryan Wold	As mentioned, we would like the OG FAC to be made of of both members of the public/civil society, as we as members of the federal, state, local, and tribal governments, all working together to discuss and develop recommendations. The OG FAC will take input from members of the public, and may ask federal officials, or other experts to provide public statements or briefings on specific	N/A	N/A	Daniel York	N/A

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8	What is the outcome GSA is aiming to achieve? What level of Transparency and how can Civil or Industry assist in the transition?	Folake Martin-Milton	<p>provide public statements or findings on specific topics to best inform those recommendations.</p> <p>Ultimately, the success of the OG FAC will depend on the ability of all stakeholders to work together and achieve common goals. This will require open communication, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to transparency, accountability, and public participation.</p>	N/A	N/A	Daniel York	N/A
9	Would performance and efficiency SLAs be a part of the discussion?	Colin Wardlaw	At this point it's hard to tell, what Open Government recommendations the Committee will provide, however it is conceivable that the Committee might include recommendation around creating an Service Level Agreement (SLA) or minimal performance standard around some Open government service being provided to the public.	N/A	N/A	Daniel York	N/A
10	What work, financial, or other personal reporting will Advisory Committee members be expected/required to do?	Shelley Metzenbaum	The personal reporting will depend on the status of the committee members. Special Government Employees (SGEs) are required to file confidential financial disclosure reports. The OGE form 450 allows committee leadership and agency attorneys to evaluate potential conflicts of interest. Current federal employees simply continue with the disclosure requirement with their agency and provide a copy to the committee leadership. Members who are appointed as representatives of outside organizations are not typically asked to submit disclosure forms since it is presumed that they are representing the interests of their organization.	N/A	N/A	Jeremy Anderson	N/A
11	To what extent can Tribal Governments participate as appointed members of the OG FAC?	Daniel Garcia	While the Tribe itself is not eligible to serve as appointed members of the Open Government Federal Advisory Committee, its individual members of Tribal governments may be eligible to serve as appointed members of the Committee.	N/A	N/A	Jeremy Anderson	N/A
12	For current government employees, do you have to be a certain GS Level to be considered for membership of the OG FAC?	Spencer LaFata	There are no GS grade level requirements for current government employees who wish to be considered for the Open Government FAC. That being said, Civil Servants should consult their supervisor/manager to ensure they will be given the time to fully participate in the Committee.	N/A	N/A	Jeremy Anderson	N/A
13	Would I have to be based in the USA or be an American Citizen in order to be a member of the Committee?	Mike Gifford	Not being based in the US or not being a US citizen adds logistical, legal, and policy challenges to being appointed to the committee. However, all candidates will be evaluated on their own merits as GSA seeks to put together the best possible committee to advise on this important topic.	N/A	N/A	Jeremy Anderson	N/A