

Professor Bryan E. Penprase

Dean of Faculty, Undergraduate Program, Soka University of America

Visiting Associate, California Institute of Technology, and Research Professor, Pomona College

Biosketch:

Dr. Bryan Penprase is Dean of Faculty at Soka University of America, where he manages the undergraduate program, and works to develop the innovative Soka University curriculum and faculty. Bryan previously was Professor of Science at Yale-NUS College, and for 20 years was a professor at Pomona College, most recently as the Frank P. Brackett Professor of Astronomy at Pomona College. Bryan received both a BS in Physics and an MS in Applied Physics from Stanford University in 1985, and a PhD from the University of Chicago in Astronomy and Astrophysics in 1992. Dr. Penprase was a professor for 20 years at Pomona College, where he served as Chair of Physics and Astronomy, and was founding co-Director of the Liberal Arts Consortium for Online Learning. Dr. Penprase served as an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow at Yale University, where he was one of the authors of the blueprint for the Yale-NUS College Curriculum, and advised Yale's President Salovey and the Yale Provost on topics ranging from online learning, Math education at Yale, and Teaching and Learning Centers. Dr. Penprase co-organized a series of conferences on the Future of Liberal Arts and Sciences in India, and helped develop the Freshman Scholars at Yale program. At Yale-NUS College he is the founding Director for the Centre for Teaching and Learning, and is a member of the NUS Teaching Academy, where he is chair of the NUS Teaching Academy Horizon Scanning Committee, and works on a wide range of topics in higher education policy and research in STEM education and cultural issues in teaching and learning.

Bryan's astronomy research includes nearly all aspects of observational astrophysics, from photometric observations of nearby asteroids to spectroscopic studies of element formation in the Early Universe, using telescopes such as the Hubble Space Telescope and the Keck Telescope in Hawaii. He is the author of "The Power of Stars – How Celestial Observations Have Shaped Civilization," published by Springer, Inc., and has authored or co-authored over 50 peer-reviewed articles, in the *Astrophysical Journal*, *Astronomical Journal*, and in *Nature* and *Science*. He has served on numerous NSF and NASA review panels, including the Hubble Space Telescope Time Allocation Committee and the NASA/Keck Time Allocation Committee, and has participated in the external review of the Five College Astronomy Program. His most recent research program is a collaboration with Caltech to develop the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF) and a Global Relay of Observatories known as GROWTH for studying gamma ray bursts, new supernovae, and the electromagnetic counterparts of gravitational wave sources.