



Dr. Joe M. Straus is former Executive Vice President of The Aerospace Corporation. He joined Aerospace's Space Sciences Laboratory after completing a B.A. in physics from Rice University, where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, and a Ph.D. in earth and space sciences from UCLA. Following several laboratory assignments, including Head of the Atmospheric Sciences Department, Director of the Chemistry and Physics Laboratory, and one in which he was responsible for developing Aerospace's independent research and development program, Dr. Straus served in increasingly responsible management positions in Aerospace's engineering organization and also in support of US government satellite and launch vehicle programs.

He became a corporate officer in 1997, responsible for Aerospace's support of weather, navigation, communications, and early warning satellites and, ultimately, served as Executive Vice-president (chief operating officer) from 2001 until his retirement in 2008.

He continues to act as a consultant to Aerospace and to NASA, primarily on review teams for major space programs. He serves as the chair of the Standing Review Board for NOAA's Joint Polar Satellite System. He also serves as the chair of the Space Communications and Navigation committee for the International Astronautical Congress, as a member of the advisory group for Rice University's Mechanical Engineering and Materials Sciences Department, as a member of the Science and Engineering Advisory Council for Achievement Rewards for College Scientists, and as chair of the Aerospace Federal Credit Union. He is a member of the International Academy of Astronautics.