

APS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
2013



COMMITTEE:

PUBLICATIONS OVERSIGHT (POC)

COMMITTEE CHARGE:

The membership of the Publications Oversight Committee shall consist of the Editor-in-Chief, the Executive Officer, the Treasurer/Publisher, four members elected by Council to staggered four-year terms and four members appointed by the President-Elect to staggered four year terms. The President-Elect shall appoint a Chairperson from among these eight members. The Committee shall propose guidelines for the operating philosophy of publications and shall oversee general editorial policy. It shall meet at least twice each year and shall make recommendations to Council regarding the research publications of the Society.

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chair: **Anthony F Starace**
Univ of Nebraska - Lincoln

Member: **Anthony M Johnson**
Univ of Maryland-Balt County

Member: **Christina A Back**
General Atomics - San Diego

Member: **Shamit Kachru**
Stanford Univ

Member: **Cornelius W Beausang**
Yale Univ

Member: **David D Meyerhofer**
Univ of Rochester

Member: **Alexander Demkov**
Univ of Texas, Austin

Member: **Berndt Mueller**
Brookhaven Natl Lab

Statutory Members: **Gene Sprouse, Kate Kirby, Joe Serene**

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2013:

A winter meeting scheduled for 11 February in College Park was cancelled due to a blizzard; a conference call on 26 March took its place. Issues discussed were the PRL Editor search, the organization-wide digital strategy, plans for Physical Review Applied, OSTP memorandum on open access, growth of editorial staff in step with growth in submissions, and journal prices; a motion approving journal prices as proposed by the Treasurer/Publisher was approved.

A meeting was held on Long Island on 9 May. There was discussion of Physical Review Applied, papers now rejected by PR that would be appropriate for it, market share in the field, and FIAP support; expansion of the Editorial Office; the search for a new PRL

Editor; the approaching deadline for participation in SCOAP3; and the current financial position of the APS, including arrears situations with several countries. A report was given on the Outstanding Referee program and the representation of women in it. The meeting ended with discussion of the relationship between the journals and China.

A conference call took place on 18 October. Items discussed were the recommendations of the PRL Visiting Committee, PRL manuscript length calculations, Physical Review Applied, the Communications Subcommittee, CHORUS, and status of the building renovation.

In addition to the advice the POC provided during its regularly-scheduled meetings or conference calls, on two occasions in 2013 the POC was asked for the following additional advice:

(1) POC Input on SCOAP3: At its 9 May 2013 meeting the POC discussed APS participation in SCOAP3. In early June 2013, APS Executive Officer Kate Kirby asked the POC Chair (Starace) for a written summary of the POC discussion concerning SCOAP3 and its recommendation. Starace replied in writing that “The [POC] discussion concluded with the unanimous recommendation that APS proceed with all due caution and not put APS finances at significant financial risk by going forward with SCOAP3 prior to receiving concrete evidence that SCOAP3's pledges to APS will be honored.”

(2) POC Advice on an Author Appeal: An author, whose submitted Comment to an APS journal was rejected by the editors of the journal, appealed the decision to the Chair of the POC. In early January 2013, both the 2012 POC Chair, B. Mueller, and the 2013 POC Chair, A.F. Starace, were asked by POC Advisor Amy Halsted to examine the journal procedures followed in the case. They advised the APS Editor-in-Chief, Gene Sprouse, that the stated journal appeals procedure had been short-circuited and recommended that an independent DAE consider the scientific merits of the author's appeal.