

Panel on Public Affairs
Minutes - June 10, 2022
Time: 10:00am ET - 3:00pm ET

POPA Members Present:

Bill McCurdy, Eric Mazur, Don Lamb, Jim Adams Norbert Holtkamp, Eric Gawiser, Laura Grego, Kristen Pudenz, Marion White, Jonathan Wurtele, Dan Stamper Kurn, Wati Taylor , Brad Marston ,Dana Dattlebaum

Other Members Present:

Frances Hellman, Jim GatesAlan Hurd - Guest

APS Staff:

Frances Slakey, Jon Bagger, Nico Hernández Charpak, Mark Elsesser, Amy Flatten, Janay Oliver

Alan Hurd - Guest

General Business - Bill McCurdy

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of February 2022 Meeting Mins*

Action: McCurdy called the meeting at 10:00 AM

Motion: to accept the February meeting minutes, as presented
(Marston, Gawiser)

Action: the motion passed

*10 virtual votes

*5 in-person votes

CISA Update: APS response to Ukraine/Russia - Alan Hurd

Hurd discussed the APS response to Ukraine, the recommendations from CISA and actions that have been taken since the recommendations.

The recommendations were derived through deliberations by the members of CISA, along with three former CISA Chairs who are currently serving on the CISA Subcommittee, “Establishing APS as a Welcoming Global Hub.” In addition, CISA members discussed actions APS should take in support of displaced and dissenting Russian and Belarusian scientists. A few overarching principles guided CISA’s deliberations, and these are echoed in the recommendations below: *See Slides*

These principles guided CISA recommendations to Council. :

See Slides

Physics & the Public Subcommittee: Sarah Demers

02.5 Boycott of Scientists by Nationality - Discussion

Demers gave an overview of 02.5 Boycott of Scientists by Nationality - The P&P subcommittee wanted to broaden the statement with the same sentiments. The subcommittee decided to take the long view and thought about including other nationalities. POPA discussed the need to distinguish between boycotts based on nationality on the one hand and on the other, decisions to end or suspend relationships with nationally sponsored institutions. POPA is very much in favor of broadening the statement. P&P will work on the statement to present in October.

02.1 DOD Funding for Basic Research *

Demers presented the committee with an updated statement containing minor edits to the statement put forward by the P&P Subcommittee. The committee proceeded to vote on the new statement after a short discussion.

Statement: 02.1 DOD Funding for Basic Research

Motion: to accept edits and approve the statement

(Gawiser, Lamb)

Action: the motion passed

*10 virtual votes

*5 in-person votes

15.2 The Status of Women in Physics - Update - Bill McCurdy

McCurdy discussed the Board comments on the statement. The Board expressed POPA needs to do a better job at acknowledging the nonbinary gender. The Board made suggestions for the change of the title. The Subcommittee will communicate with CSWP, COM and the executive committee of the Forum on Diversity and Inclusion on what their comments and suggestions are based on the Board's comments. P&P will consider revisions and present the statement in October for a vote.

National Security Subcommittee: Laura Grego

06.1 The Use of Nuclear Weapons (with PPC comments)

Grego provided the committee with a overview on 06.1 The Use of Nuclear Weapons statement. NS responded to the PPC comments by making the suggested edits. A discussion with the full committee provided the subcommittee with suggestions. The subcommittee will edit and come back with an updated draft for a vote.

97.2 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty - minor edits for POPA to consider*

Grego presented an updated draft worked by the subcommittee that updates the draft with minor edits.

Statement: 97.2 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

Motion: to accept edits and renew

(Adams, Mazur)

Action: the motion passed

*10 virtual votes

*5 in person votes

BMD Report Update: Laura Grego, Mark Elsesser, Bill McCurdy

Grego, updated the committee on the current revision of the BMD report based on two technical errors that were identified in a calculation.

Elsesser/McCurdy – updated the committee on the development of new policies and procedures for POPA reports, including addressing post-publication errors. Will update the committee at the October meeting.

Methane Report Update: Nico Hernández Charpak

Hernández Charpak gave an overview of the Methane Report and the subsequent advocacy activities led by APS GA to implement the recommendations of the report.

Energy & the Environment Subcommittee: Bill Collins

DAC POPA Report Proposal (full version) *

Taylor provided the committee with an overview of the Direct Air Capture POPA Report Proposal.

Motion: approve DAC POPA Report proposal for new POPA Study

(Mazur, Gawiser)

Action: the motion passed

*10 virtual votes

* 4 in person votes

* 1 in person abstention

New Business:

COE Proposed draft statement on teaching evaluations, submitted for POPA's consideration, by the task force convened and appointed by COE, CSWP, and COM, presented by Catherine Crouch. After the presentation the committee advised that the Physics and the Public subcommittee take on the work of considering a statement on the topic.

Action: Adjournment, McCurdy ended the meeting at 2:19 PM