

Panel on Public Affairs Meeting
February 9, 2018
APS Washington Office of Public Affairs
529 14th Street, NW, Suite 1050, Washington, DC

Members present:

M. Marder (Chair), J. Wells (Chair Elect), D. Dahlberg (Vice Chair), F. Houle (Past Chair), J. Adams, M. Barnett, S. Blessing, P. Bucksbaum, W. Collins, B. Cruz, B. DeMarco (*virtual*), D. Ernst, V. Grassian, L. Greene, C. Gutierrez, M. Hockaday, M. Tamor, P. Taylor, E. Yablonovitch

Advisors/Staff present:

K. Cole, M. Elsesser, R. Falcone, D. Gross (*virtual*), A. Hu, K. Kirby, G. Mack, J. Russo, F. Slakey

Call to Order

F. Houle called the meeting to order at 8:15 AM.

Welcome, Approval of Minutes

A call for edits to the October 2017 minutes was made. Hearing none, a motion was introduced.

MOTION: *To accept the October 2017 minutes, as presented.*

(L. Greene/W. Collins)

ACTION: *The motion passed, unanimously.*

General Business

Subcommittee membership was updated with new member volunteers. APS CEO, Kate Kirby, called for consideration of potential POPA member candidates for the Nominating Committee to review.

Advocacy Update

APS Staff provided a review of the five issues APS members took to the Hill in this year's Unit Leader CVD. The issues included: Raising Budget Caps & Increasing the R&D Budget; Science Infrastructure; STEM Ed; H-1B Visas; Climate Change. CVD participants showed interest in pursuing follow-up meetings in their home districts.

Ethics Subcommittee

The Ethics Statement Working Group provided an overview of activity since the October meeting, a revised statement, and suggestions for broader action. The proposed consolidated APS Ethics Statement combines Statements 02.2, 02.3, 02.4, and 04.1 and converts what was originally written as a set of principles to a statement that includes definitions and associated action items for each section of the statement. Wordsmithing of the document will continue before sending the draft out for review, in advance of a vote at the June POPA meeting. Stewardship and follow-on activities were also considered. It was suggested that a standing committee might be best for stewardship of the final document and associated activities.

ACTION: *The Working Group will finalize the draft statement for a vote by POPA in June 2018.*

National Security Subcommittee

An overview of APS Statement 02.1 – DOD Funding for Basic Research was provided. The edited draft statement presented today incorporates POPA's prior suggestions to rework the language and bring the statement up to date. After discussion, unease remained about the statement's tone regarding loss of life and a concern regarding mission creep within DOD programs.

ACTION: *The Subcommittee will rework the statement, considering the new comments & concerns, and will provide a recommendation at the June 2018 POPA meeting.*

HEU Report; Review & Vote

Study Chair, J. Wells, provided a full review of the report -- including six key findings and four recommendations. New POPA members had an opportunity to weigh in on the draft. Suggestions were made to include more on the breadth of applications, statistical back up, a clearer explanation of spallation vs. reactor sources, and a strengthening of the section on capacity.

MOTION: *To provisionally accept the report with the inclusion of suggested changes made today, before a final version is circulated for review and electronic vote in April.*
(M. Marder/D. Dahlberg)

Amendment: *C. Gutierrez and M. Hockaday should be consulted on the changes. (L. Greene)*

ACTION: *The motion, as amended, passed unanimously.*

Physics & the Public Subcommittee

APS Statement 14.1 – Undergraduate Research Statement was brought forward for discussion. PPC and the Board have asked POPA to consider whether the statement needs to be reworded to focus attention on providing access to international research experiences.

ACTION: *The Subcommittee will consider and return with their recommendation in June.*

The Committee on Education has requested edits to APS Statement 13.1 – K-12 Education Statement.

ACTION: *The Subcommittee will work with the CoE and return with their recommendation for Statement 13.1, as well as other Statements up for review in 2018, in June.*

A review of the H-1B Visa Board Statement was provided. The Subcommittee was asked to consider turning the Board Statement into an APS Statement, which would be more enduring. POPA members asked to review summaries of the bills concerned with H-1B visas.

ACTION: *The Subcommittee will return with a proposed H-1B Statement, in June.*

Energy & Environment Subcommittee

W. Collins provided a review of the climate change activity currently in development – a Green Tech Competition. OGA Staff completed initial research to gain an understanding of current campus competitions and where APS could potentially add value. A questionnaire was sent out to the offices of sustainability directors at approximately 20 colleges and universities across the U.S. with a request for feedback on top priorities, trends, pressing needs for more research or innovation, major obstacles in

implementing sustainability programs, etc. The OGA received limited feedback on the questionnaire. General findings – green tech competitions and sustainability initiatives are prolific on college campuses and span many of the major currents in clean energy technology and sustainable/efficient design. POPA member M. Tamor suggested taking a different approach – a competition designed to remove combustion from the economy. There is potential for such a competition to tackle one major CO₂ emitter after another. There is also potential for partnership with industry and associated groups,

ACTION: *The Subcommittee will continue to develop the proposal, and report back in June*

GhG Inventory Update

APS Staff provided an overview of the GHG Inventory and the Committee's recommendations for Scope 3 (APS Meetings Travel & Investments). An alternative to purchasing carbon offsets was discussed – monetary donations to clean energy technology accelerators for early stage projects and technology-to-market deployment. The alternative is well aligned with APS policy statements and member interests. It would continue to demonstrate the Society's commitment to and leadership in climate change-related activities. POPA members discussed socially conscious investing vs. divesting from carbon. It was suggested that APS might consider a statement on divesting. K. Kirby indicated that the APS Investment Committee works on this; they are putting together a report on socially conscious investing.

New Business

Kate Kirby, APS CEO, talked about the Society's strategic planning initiative. The process will update the plan originally set forth in 2013. The new plan will put special emphasis on scientific publishing and the financial health required to sustain our organization. It will be a focused, concise plan that can be used to communicate with members and prioritize Society activities and investments in time and resources. The APS Strategic Plan will be completed in 2018.

POPA discussed APS participation in March for Science 2018. The Committee reported that the 2017 March was generally a positive experience.

MOTION: *To recommend that APS participate in and officially endorse the National March for Science.*
(L. Greene/D. Dahlberg)

Amendment: *APS & PPC should monitor the National March for Science and be cautious about moving forward. (F. Houle)*

Amendment: *APS should provide a key statement of the tone we are hoping to achieve, so we can control the message. (M. Hockaday)*

ACTION: *The motion, as amended, passed unanimously.*

Intersessional Minutes

- Subcommittees continued work on projects via teleconferences.
- POPA unanimously approved the HEU Report via electronic vote in April.

Next Meeting

The date for the next POPA meeting will be June 1, 2018.

Adjournment

ACTION: *M. Marder adjourned the meeting 2:50 PM.*