

Panel on Public Affairs
June 5, 2020 - Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting

Virtual Members Present:

D.Dahlberg (Chair), W.Collins(Chair-Elect), B.McCurdy(Vice-Chair), J. Wells(Past-Chair)
J.Adams(Past-Chair), L.Aycock, S.Blessing, S. Fetter, E. Gawiser, L.Grego, D.Gross, C.Gutierrez, F.
Hellman, M.Hockaday, N.Holtkamp, B. Klein, T.Mason, C.Nitta, R.Orbach, D.Stamper-Kurn, J.Wurtele
Some members joined meeting late and left meeting early

Members Absent: D.Ernst

Virtual Advisors/Staff Present:

P.Bucksbaum, M.Elsesser, K.Kirby, J Oliver, J. Russo, F Slakey

Virtual Guest:

A.Flatten

Call to Order:

D. Dahlberg called the meeting to order at 11:03 A.M

Welcome, Approval of Minutes

***Motion:** To accept the February 2020 minutes, as presented.*

(Blessing, Collins)

***Action:** The motion passed, unanimously*

OGA Advocacy Update

APS Office of Government Affairs (OGA), Francis Slakey, Chief Government Affairs Officer provided an overview of OGA Advocacy Issues including; COVID response, Executive Order banning Chinese grad students, postdocs and visiting scholars, Threatened Executive Order suspending Optional Practical Training and Sen Schumer's "Endless Frontier Act ". In particular OGA focused activities were ensuring graduate students and postdocs continue to be supported by the federal grants. OGA partnered with the Forum on Graduate Student Affairs (FGSA) to send out an alert to FGSA members asking them to urge Congress to maintain the salaries and benefits of graduate students supported by federal grants. APS received confirmation that NSF, DOE and DOD were all extending the grant support for graduate students.

Physics & the Public Subcommittee

Guest - Amy Flatten, APS Director of International Affairs, provided an overview of the revised APS Statement 89.2 The International Nature of Physics and International Cooperation by the Committee on International Scientific Affairs CISA. The new draft statement is informed by numerous inputs: the current and changing climate of government policies, restricting scientific collaboration and other recent sources from APS; a statement from International Leaders round table from the February 2020 APS Annual Leadership Meeting; the recently adopted board statement on open science; and, a report and recommendations released from task force on International Engagement to inform the societies strategy to expand international engagement and opportunities to serve APS members outside of the US and the international physics community at large.

Draft Statement on the International Nature of Physics

***Motion:** To approve the proposed statement and forward to Council*

(Blessing, Gawiser)

Action: *The motion passed, unanimously*

Blessing, Chair of Physics & the Public Subcommittee discussed the statement on graduate admissions considering comments and modifications from the P&P subcommittee.

Draft Statement on Graduate Admissions

There were several votes to amend the draft statement.

Motion: *To approve the statement and forward to Council*

Action: *The motion passed, unanimously*

Motion: *First paragraph: remove “Causing talented individuals to be excluded.”*

Action: *The motion failed (against - 17, abstentions - 1)*

Motion: *Keep the last bullet and end at ‘overcome’: “Encourage colleagues to write detailed letters of recommendation on behalf of their students, including challenges overcome. ~~and personality traits that are well-suited to graduate school success~~”*

Action: *The motion passed (favor - 13, delete - 2, abstentions - 3)*

Statement 05.1 Science & Technical Advice for Congress

Motion: *To renew statement*

(Blessing, Collins)

Action: *The motion passed, unanimously*

Statement 15.1 Statement on Civic Engagement

Motion: *To renew statement*

(Blessing, Collins)

Action: *The motion passed, unanimously*

Statement 90.1 Scientific Contact w/ Countries...

Action: *Physics & the Public Subcommittee will continue to review this statement*

National Security Subcommittee

Wells, Chair of the National Security Subcommittee presented POPA with APS Statement 00.2 NMD System Technical Feasibility and Deployment with a recommendation to archive because the statement is outdated. POPA recommended that the National Security Subcommittee develop a new statement at the completion of the Missile Defense Study.

Motion: *Archive statement 00.2 NMD System Technical Feasibility and Deployment*

Action: *The motion passed, unanimously*

Wells gave an update on the statement on Arms Control Treaties and Verification that was not approved by the APS Council. The National Security will redraft the statement -- with consideration of the sentiments of Council -- and provide a draft for discussion at the October POPA Meeting. Wells also presented a draft APS Board statement on the New START Treaty. The APS Board New START Treaty Statement will call on the United States and the Russian Federation to sign a five-year extension of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START).

Draft APS Board Statement on the New START Treaty

Motion: *To approve sending draft statement to the Board for adoption*

(Collins, Klein)

Action: *The motion passed, unanimously*

Energy and Environment Subcommittee

Orbach, Chair of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee gave an overview of the proposed Methane Flaring Study. The Flaring study will provide an opportunity to assess the actual amount of flaring and methane release through measurement platforms that are currently available or soon to be completed. The study would focus on the following questions:

1. Is it possible to have continuous reliable monitoring of a) flaring, and b) methane emissions from oil and gas extraction sites using current technology?
2. If not, are there innovations in sensing technology that can be researched and developed by the physics community that would allow continuous reliable monitoring?
3. What would the cost be to implement a continuous reliable monitoring scenario, and to make the results public?
4. What would be the recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions based on reliable monitoring?

Methane Flaring Study

Motion: *To approve the Flaring study
(Collins, Holtkamp)*

Action: *The motion passed, unanimously*

15.3 on Earth's Changing Climate

Action: *Collins will work on statement and present it at October meeting*

New Business

Francis Slakey, Chief Government Affairs Officer, discussed with the committee the recommendation to archive the statement from APS Publisher, Matthew Salter and APS Editor in Chief.

Unassigned Statement - 95.1 Policy Regarding Growth of Physical Review

Motion: *To archive statement*

Action: *The motion passed, unanimously*

Next meeting date: October 2, 2020 - virtual

Adjournment

Action: *D. Dahlberg adjourned the meeting 3:23 PM*