

APS Panel on Public Affairs Meeting

October 5, 2012
529 14th Street,
National Press Club, Washington DC

Guests: Ann Cairns, Director of Strategic Communications, AGU
Joanne Carney, Director, AAAS Office of Government Relations
Bob Dijkgraaf, Director of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
Monica Plisch, APS, Assistant Director of Education
Libby Turpen, Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton

POPA members in attendance: R. Rosner, R. Jaffe, M Beasley, Artie Bienenstock, V. Corless, A. Falk, M. Goodman, M. Gunner, S. Kemp, P. Looney, T. Meyer, R. Schwitters, P. Taylor, J. Trebes

POPA members absent: J. Dahlburg, R. Falcone, G. Long, S. Seestrom, T. Theis, R. Byer

The meeting convened at 8:15am (agenda attached).

GERA Proposal for Transportation Study - Patrick Looney reported that after this study proposal was presented at the June POPA meeting there were several teleconferences with GERA. POPA members made an effort to help GERA rework the proposal in a manner consistent with a POPA study, but there was no convergence. So, Bob Rosner moved to: 1) inform GERA that POPA will not be undertaking this study; and 2) that there are other transportation topics that POPA is willing to consider. The motion passed unanimously. Slakey and Jaffe will inform GERA.

DNDO Study: Report for Review & Vote - Jim Trebes reviewed the draft POPA/IEEE DNDO report. He expects that the report will be ready to distribute to POPA within two months. POPA discussed and clarified the review process that will be used: 1) three independent experts will read & comment on the report; 2) Jay Davis will oversee the process of making sure that the experts' comments are adequately addressed by the Study Committee; 3) the report and Davis' assessment will be sent to POPA for consideration and vote; and 4) if approved, the report will go to the APS Executive Board for a final discussion/vote. The IEEE will carry out its approval process in parallel with APS.

Climate Change – At the February meeting, POPA agreed that it would review the APS Statement on Climate Change (07.1) after the IPCC issues Assessment Report 5, which is expected to be issued in late 2013. To prepare for the review of the APS Statement, POPA had its first discussion of some of the issues that need to be considered. Bob Dijkgraaf reviewed the assessment that was done of the IPCC process. Ann Cairns, of AGU, reviewed the AGU process for establishing its statement on climate change and she discussed the current set of AGU activities on climate change. Joanne Carney, of AAAS, explained the history of the AAAS statement on climate change. After these three presentations, POPA identified a number of

process questions that need to be answered at the February meeting: 1) who will carry out the initial review of the APS Statement (e.g. the Energy & Environment Subcommittee?, an ad-hoc panel?) ; 2) will there be a workshop to inform the review of the statement?; and 3) which scientists will be contacted to inform the review process?

Possible Study of Science Advising - Mark Goodman presented, on behalf of the Physics and the Public Subcommittee, a draft study proposal for an examination of science advising. While the primary audience would be the APS community, some members of the Subcommittee believed that there could be value in leaving open the possibility that the study could also inform congressional staff. POPA agreed that this is worth further consideration, but required that the proposal be more carefully scoped. The Subcommittee will have more discussions and will bring a more detailed proposal to the February POPA meeting.

Education Activities- Monica Plisch, APS Associate Director of Education, reported on a project that was a spi- off of the POPA Direct Air Capture study: a cell phone app that can educate users about the Greenhouse effect. She also informed POPA of the interest that the Committee on Education (CoE) has in updating the APS Statement on K-12 Education (00.5). Adam Falk will contact Sue Seestrom and volunteer to work with CoE on updating the statement.

Proposed Activity - Libby Turpen, of Booz Allen Hamilton, presented a proposal for a study she is developing to examine US national security priorities and how well they align with national security lab activities and capabilities. She proposed working with POPA on the study. In discussing the issue, member of POPA acknowledged the importance of the narrow issue of security labs, but also identified the importance of the larger issue of how well national lab capabilities align with US national priorities. As a next step, POPA requested that several individuals discuss this in a conference call and their recommendation at the February POPA meeting. The individuals include: Rosner, Schwitters, Trebes, Orbach, Slakey, Lubell, and Turpen.

Review of Old/Current Business - POPA received updates on several activities: POPA/CSIS Tactical Nuclear Weapons Study, Nuclear Reactor Lifetime Extension Study, Critical Elements advocacy, Helium Legislation advocacy.

The meeting adjourned at 3pm.

Panel on Public Affairs
Meeting Agenda – October 5th, 2012
APS Washington Office
529 14th Street, NW, Suite 1050
Washington DC

Guests: Ann Cairns, Director of Strategic Communications, AGU
Joanne Carney, Director, AAAS Office of Government Relations
Bob Dijkgraaf, Director of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
Monica Plisch, APS Assistant Director of Education
Libby Turpen, Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton

8:00 Continental Breakfast

8:15 Welcome /Introduction of New Member: Phil Taylor **Rosner**

8:30 GERA Proposal for Transportation Study **Looney, Jaffe**

9:15 DNDO Study: Report for Review & Vote **Trebes**

10:15 Break

10:30 Climate Change: **Jaffe, Slakey**
Activities of other Scientific Societies **Cairns, Carney**
Overview of IPCC Process and Methods **Dijkgraaf**

12:00 Lunch

12:45 Possible Study of Science Advising **Goodman**

1:15 Follow up on DAC Study Education Activity **Plisch**

1:30 Proposed Activity: **Turpen**
Examination of the National Security Lab S&T Infrastructure

2:30 Review of Old and New Business:
POPA/CSIS Tactical Nuclear Weapons Study
Nuclear Reactor Lifetime Extension Study
Critical Elements
Status of Helium Legislation **Lieberman**

3:00 Adjournment