

APS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT
2019

Committee

Education

Committee Charge

The membership of the Committee on Education consists of the Chair, Past-Chair and Chair-Elect from the Forum on Education and nine (9) persons selected by the Committee on Committees and appointed by the President-Elect to staggered three-year terms. The President-Elect appoints the Chair from among the members. The Committee is responsible for activities in the area of physics education designated to it by the Council. It reports periodically to the President and the Council on physics education. It may suggest and supervise studies and programs to improve the cooperation between the educational community and other parts of the physics community.

2019 Committee Members

Chair: **Laura Henriques**
California State University, Long Beach

Member: **Nancy Ruzycki**
University of Florida

Member: **Martha-Elizabeth (Marty) Baylor**
Carleton College

Member: **Peter Sheldon**
Randolph College

Member: **James Camparo**
The Aerospace Corporation

Member: **Kathryn (Kat) Svinarich**
Kettering University

Member: **Joshua (Josh) Grossman**
St. Mary's College of Maryland

FED Chair-Elect to COE: **Gerald (Jerry) Feldman**
George Washington University

Member: **Daryl Hartley**
US Naval Academy

FED Chair to COE: **Laurie McNeil**
University of North Carolina

Member: **Karen Magee-Sauer**
Rowan University

FED Past Chair to COE: **Larry Cain**
Davidson College

Member: **Galen Pickett**
California State University, Long Beach

* *10 members plus FED this year as Henriques served an additional year to continue as chair*

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2019

The committee met twice online (January 23 and June 17) and twice in person (March 30 at APS headquarters and September 29 in Minneapolis). Subcommittees met and conducted their work virtually between meetings. The Committee on Education had 3 major areas of emphasis this year: Effective Practices for Physics Programs (EP3), role of graduate (and post-graduate) physics societies, feedback/revisions on policy statements, and, indirectly, Educational Policy Committee (EPC). Other tasks were completed but were not primary emphasis of the committee.

Effective Practices for Physics: We continued to spend a great deal of time trying to figure out the role of COE in regards to oversight (and transitions) of the Effective Practices for Physics Programs (EP3). The work to develop the EP3 is carried out by the EP3 task force. Our work is in concert with EP3 to help map out the process by which the completed EP3 will be reviewed, revised and updated. Mike Jackson (a lead on the EP3 project) and Stephanie Chasteen (evaluator) have participated in our COE meetings. COE has been spending time trying to figure out the role of COE and the role of the EP3 Editorial Task Force once the guide is completed. At this point, we are recommending that COE has oversight with open lines of communication, but that the work of the editing, reviewing and soliciting contributors, etc. primarily be done by the EP3 Editorial Board.

Graduate (and Post-Grad) Student Physics Societies: A position paper about the need for graduate student and post-doc physics societies was accepted and approved by the COE. A pilot program to institute and study G/PG SPS chapters is underway with input from the COE Task Force (Ted Hodapp is serving the primary point of contact/interface).

Education Policy Committee: COE endorsed the priorities set forth by the Education Policy Committee. COE appoints two members to EPC in staggered two-year terms. The EPC met roughly monthly throughout the year. Major accomplishments of EPC are listed below.

The Educational Policy Committee had these accomplishments:

- Approved and re-ordered policy priorities – one new priority added to the list and re-ordered the priorities and related strategic actions ([Link to policy priorities](#))
- Started to develop a toolkit for departments facing threats of closure (suggestions and strategies for making a case for continued funding)

2019 EPC membership is as follows:

COE members: COE Chair (Henriques), Andrew Heckler - The Ohio State University, Karen Magee-Sauer (EPC Chair)- Rowan University, Galen Pickett, California State University Long Beach

GPER member: Paula Heron - University of Washington

FEd member: Scott Franklin - Rochester Institute of Technology

Other 2019 COE Activities

Additional work of the committee includes these actions:

- Annual review of COE priorities
- Ensured alignment of COE work with COE priorities

- Shared concerns with Editor Michael Thoennessen regarding concerns about the exclusion of PER in APS journals.
- Awards Related/Grants Activities
 - Streamlining and timeliness of awards process (in particular notification process)
 - Selection of recipients of Award for Improving Undergraduate Physics Education.
 - Review & selection of recipients of APS Prize for a Faculty Member for Research in an Undergraduate Institution.
 - Began establishing a mechanism to formally recognize top producers of physics majors (by institution type, by key demographics).
 - Review and ranking of Innovation Award pre-proposals which listed COE as a related unit.
- Revision of POPA statement 99.2 (Physics Education Research)
- Collaboration with CSWP and COM on a draft statement related to use of student evaluation of teaching (still in progress).
- Added new issues of interest that will be part of the 2020 COE priorities (*e.g.* Quantum Workforce).

Follow-up on 2018 Items

Physics GRE: A draft position statement about the use of the Physics GRE in graduate school admissions was sent to POPA for review in June 2018. The statement was returned to our P-GRE subcommittee with feedback for revisions. A revised version was sent back to POPA for review in 2019.