

**Panel on Public Affairs
October 2, 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, L.Aycock, S.Blessing, D. Ernst, 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

Due to scheduling conflicts, some members joined for only limited portions of the meeting

Virtual Advisors/Staff Present:

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

Call to Order:

D. Dahlberg called the meeting to order at 11:04 A.M

Dahlberg opened the meeting with a brief welcome and then a motion was made to approve the minutes.

***Motion:** to accept the June 2020 minutes, as presented.*

(Orbach, Gates)

***Action:** the motion passed, unanimously*

OGA Advocacy Update

APS Office of Government Affairs (OGA), Mark Elsesser , Interim Director of Government Affairs provided an overview of OGA Advocacy Issues including; COVID response, Visas & Immigration, Helium, Nuclear Threat Reduction and NSF Reauthorization. In particular, OGA identified several steps that can be taken by the federal government that would help the national physics research enterprise get through and beyond COVID. A letter was sent to Congress with numerous recommendations including a request for cost-extensions to grantees. OGA supported the letter with a grassroots campaign involving hundreds of APS members who sent letters to Congress. In response to APS efforts and the work of several organizations, Congress introduced the RISE ACT which authorizes \$26 billion in research relief funding.

Physis & the Public Subcommittee

Blessing, Chair of Physics & the Public Subcommittee, presented three statements for POPA review and discussion. In particular, the discussion of Statement 05.2 Physical Science Research Funding led to a suggestion that it include a quote from the American Academy of Arts and Scientists article [The Perils of Complacency](#) (American Academy of Arts and Scientists, 2020).

POPA voted on each of the three statements as follows:

Statement 05.2 Physical Science Research Funding

Motion: *to approve the current statement with potential new quote to be emailed to POPA members for consideration and virtual vote (Nico will review new AAAS report for the potential quote*

(Hockaday, Collins)

Action: *the motion passed unanimously*

Statement 15.2 Statement on Status of Women in Physics

Motion: *to approve the proposed draft statement and send it to the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics for review and comment.*

(Blessing, Collins)

Action: *the motion passed unanimously*

Statement 08.2 Diversity Statement

Motion: *to approve the edited version*

(Blessing, Dahlberg)

Action: *the motion passed unanimously*

National Security Subcommittee

James Wells, National Security Subcommittee Chair, presented the proposed Verification Science for International Peace and Security statement. The statement was modified after the Council provided its commentary on an earlier draft of the statement that was titled "Treaty Science". The modifications made by the National Security Subcommittee addressed the Council interest in including the broader theme of international peace and security. POPA supported the changes and voted on the modified statement.

Verification Science for International Peace and Security

Motion: *to approve sending the draft statement to PPC for comments*

(Gross, Grego)

Action: *the motion passed unanimously*

Standing Ethics Committee

Guest, Michael Marder, Ethics Committee Chair, provided an update on the APS Early Career Member Ethics Survey, APS Departmental Chair Ethics Survey, and the Drafts of professional disclosure and revocation policies. Marder discussed two current issues that the Ethics Committee is now considering: how to handle APS member ethics violations; and, the possibility of developing a position of APS ethics officer or ombuds. He then presented two motions for POPA to consider that involve the APS Guidelines on Ethics:

Addition to APS Statement 19.1 Guidelines on Ethics

Motion: to approve a condensed version of APS Statement 19.1 – Guidelines on Ethics, as presented by the APS Ethics Committee.

(Blessing, Gutierrez)

Action: the motion passed unanimously

Edit to APS Statement 19.1 Guidelines on Ethics

Motion: to add the words in bold and delete the strikethrough to the following paragraph from the Guidelines on Ethics:

All sources of materials should be disclosed or cited, no matter what the dissemination medium. If other people's or the authors' own written or illustrative material is to be used, permission must be obtained from the copyright owner. When most of the content has been duplicated from other works **without proper attribution**, the resulting ~~work~~ ~~redundant publication or plagiarism~~, and is not publishable.

(Hockaday, Gates)

Action: the motion passed unanimously

Energy & the Environment Subcommittee

Collins, Energy & Environment Subcommittee Chair, discussed the proposed redraft of the APS Statement 15.3 Earth's Changing Climate. Collins presented and discussed each of the proposed changes in the redrafted statement. The footnotes which are now included in the redraft provide the supporting evidence for all points that are made. The committee then discussed possible restructuring and further potential edits.

15.3 Earth's Changing Climate Statement

Motion: to restructure the Statement as suggested by Jonathan Wurtele

(Wurtele, Collins)

Action: the motion failed (13 against - 4 in favor)

Motion: to approve sending the edited draft statement to PPC for comments

(McCurdy, Gutierrez)

Action: the motion passed (16 in favor - 1 against)

New Business

Bucksbaum, APS President, discussed the APS Board Statement on Racism in Physics that was amended by the Board in September. The statement clearly states that racism has no place in physics and it addresses the underrepresentation of black physicists in the discipline. Bucksbaum suggested the APS statement 00.4 Protection Against Discrimination be reactivated and forwarded to the Committee on Minorities and the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics for review and possible revision. The 00.4 Statement supports the recent decision by APS to consider policing policies of a city in the selection of locations for APS meetings. POPA then voted on Bucksbaum's suggestion:

00.4 Protection Against Discrimination

Motion: *to re-activate statement and forward it to Committee on Minorities and CSWP for revision*

(Wells, Gutierrez)

Action: *the motion passed unanimously*

Adjournment

Action: *D. Dahlberg adjourned the meeting at 3:19 PM*