

Panel on Public Affairs Meeting
June 6, 2014
APS Washington Office of Public Affairs
529 14th Street, NW, Suite 1050, Washington, DC

Members present:

R. Jaffe (Chair), S. Koonin (Chair Elect), W. Barletta (Vice Chair), R. Rosner (Past Chair), E. Boyd (virtual), R. Cote, A. Garcia, M. Goodman (virtual), S. Kemp, M. Marder, W. McCurdy, T. Meyer, H. Neal (virtual), J. Phillips, S. Pratt, M. Rosenthal, P. Taylor, T. Theis (virtual), M. Turner, J. Wells

Guests:

T. Hodapp

Advisors/Staff present:

S. Aronson, M. Beasley, K. Cole, K. Kirby, M. Lubell (virtual), J. Russo, F. Slakey

Members Absent:

P. Coyle, W. Goldstein

Call to Order

R. Jaffe called the meeting to order at 8:17 AM.

Welcome, Introductions, & Approval of Minutes

Concerns were raised over the accuracy of the February 7, 2014 meeting minutes. Discussions were overly paraphrased and incomplete; charts referenced were not included. It was generally agreed that a higher-level perspective of the meeting was not captured.

MOTION: *To return the minutes of the February 7, 2014 POPA meeting to the POPA Administrator with the instruction that high-level descriptions of what transpired be documented, including an accurate record of the motions and votes that were taken. After changes are made, the minutes will be circulated back to POPA for approval. In addition, a group will examine the question of how minutes should be rendered moving forward, with input from the APS Executive Officer.*
(Barletta/Kemp)

ACTION: *The motion passed with one abstention and one opposed.
A motion to approve the February 2014 minutes will be delayed until the next POPA meeting.*

Climate Change Statement

The POPA Energy and Environment Subcommittee reported its review of the Climate Change Review Subcommittee's draft statement and proposed an alternative for POPA's consideration. There was discussion regarding the statement drafting process and how the E&E Subcommittee arrived at its proposal. A motion was presented by the E&E Subcommittee to adopt its draft statement, subject to a set of amendments suggested by POPA members, as the framework for further work on a final draft statement. This motion was opened for discussion. Six amendments were offered, each briefly introduced by a subcommittee member. After discussion, each motion was defeated. A POPA member presented the case for keeping the current APS Climate Change Statement in place. A motion was then made to amend the motion on the floor by substitution. The amendment proposed to replace the E&E Subcommittee draft with a draft statement — referred to as the "Tri-Statement" — more closely aligned with the original Climate

Change Review Subcommittee's draft statement. The amendment was discussed, the question was called, and the motion to amend carried without opposition. The Tri-Statement was debated and a motion to make it the foundational statement upon which continued work would proceed was made. The motion carried unanimously. Finally a motion to refer the "Tri-Statement" to committee for further refinement in light of the extensive discussions that occurred throughout the meeting was presented. The committee, which would be known as the "Plenary Group", would include all members of the Energy & Environment Subcommittee as well as members of the original drafting group (the Climate Change Statement Review subcommittee). The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: *To adopt as a framework the text that the Energy & Environment Subcommittee presented, subject to a set of amendments that will be offered by members of POPA.*
(Barletta/Turner)

ACTION: *Amendments 1-6 considered and defeated.*

MOTION: *To amend by substitution, replacing the previous Climate Change Statement with a newly proposed "Tri-Statement" for consideration by POPA.*
(Kemp/Phillips)

Amendment: *To approve the amendment to substitute and to adopt the "Tri-Statement" as the foundation upon which further work will proceed.*
(Phillips/Kemp)

ACTION: *The motion to approve the "Tri-Statement" as the version of the draft climate change statement from which POPA will work, moving forward, carried without opposition. (17 in favor, one abstention)*

MOTION: *To refer the "Tri-Statement" to a committee consisting of the full Energy & Environment Subcommittee membership plus the members of the original statement drafting group, to further refine the "Tri-Statement" in light of extensive discussion regarding the issue.*
(Jaffe/Rosner)

ACTION: *The motion to refer the "Tri-Statement" to committee for further refinement passed unanimously.*

Proposed Education Study

An idea for a study on the shortages of qualified physics teachers at the high-school level, how to steer students towards a career in physics education, and the array of possible ways to accomplish this was presented. Activity associated with a final report would most likely be used at the state level, depending on the recommendations reached. Most decisions regarding high-school level curriculum and staffing occur at the local level.

MOTION: *To refer this idea for a study to the Physics & the Public Subcommittee for additional consideration, advice, and guidance.*
(M. Marder/R. Jaffe)

ACTION: *The motion passed unanimously.*

Report from Physics & the Public Subcommittee

The Subcommittee provided an overview of the work undertaken jointly with the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics (CSWP) to arrive at the proposed statement. The statement has been tightened up since last submitted to POPA for consideration and consists of three main sentences that provide (1) a statement of value, (2) a statement of the situation, and (3) a statement of action. Hyperlinks to websites including examples of some of the actions proposed in the statement will be included.

MOTION: *To approve the proposed APS Statement on the Status of Women in Physics and forward it to the APS Council for comment.*
(T. Meyer/R. Rosner)

ACTION: *Passed unanimously.*

Report from National Security Subcommittee

The Subcommittee has been considering an international workshop on tactical nuclear weapons run in cooperation with the Society's European counterparts. Discussions with leadership abroad, as well as participants of the APS workshop run in conjunction with CSIS and the U.S. State Department stateside in early 2013, are ongoing.

APS Statement 09.1 – Control of the U.S. Nuclear Complex – is under review. The Subcommittee plans to present suggested edits at the October POPA meeting.

Update on Critical Elements and Status of Helium Legislation

An update was provided by APS Staff. Work continues on outcomes of the POPA Energy Critical Elements report, including legislation geared towards e-cycling. Regarding helium, the APS is working with the American Chemical Society to build a consortium aimed at addressing price variability and product availability.

Intersessional Minutes

- Climate Change Plenary Group discussions and Writing Group drafting sessions continued throughout the summer (June/July/August/September).
- The POPA-approved Committee on the Status of Women in Physics Statement was sent to the APS Council for comment. The comment period ended on September 19th, 2014. Recommended edits will be discussed at the October POPA meeting and the proposed statement is in the queue for presentation at an upcoming APS Executive Board meeting. The CSWP Statement joins the reworded APS Statement 08.1 on Civic Engagement of Scientists in line for consideration by the E-Board.
- The National Security Subcommittee held teleconferences and exchanged emails regarding a proposed international workshop on tactical nuclear weapons, as well as continued review of APS Statement 09.1.
- The Physics & the Public Subcommittee held teleconferences and exchanged emails regarding the proposed Committee on Careers & Professional Development (CCPD) statement.
- Next scheduled APS Executive Board Meetings: 11/20 – 11/21
- Next scheduled APS Council Meetings: 11/21 – 11/22

Next Meeting

The date for the next POPA meeting will be October 3, 2014.

Adjournment

MOTION: *To adjourn the meeting.*
(R. Jaffe/M. Rosenthal)

ACTION: *Passed unanimously by committee at 2:52 PM*