

Charge to the POPA Subcommittee to Review the APS 2007 Climate Change Statement

SUMMARY

In 2007 the APS released a Statement on Climate Change. The APS By-Laws require the Panel on Public Affairs (POPA) to review all APS Statements every five years. POPA asks the subcommittee to review the 2007 Climate Change statement during 2013 and 2014, and report back to POPA by its February 2014 meeting. *Part I: The Science Basis* of the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC5) is expected to become publicly available at the end of September 2013. Part I of IPCC5 will provide an up-to-date review of the scientific issues and, together with other input described below, will enable the subcommittee to make a fresh evaluation of the possibility and associated risks of climate change and to recommend re-affirmation, revision, or replacement of the 2007 statement.

PROCEDURE

- The subcommittee will organize a workshop to obtain scientific input from experts representing a diversity of perspectives and from the APS Topical Group on the Physics of Climate. The POPA subcommittee will consult broadly about who should be invited to make presentations at the workshop.
- The workshop would consist of two sessions: First, presentations by the invited experts, and second, an opportunity for replies and discussion among the presenters and for dialog with the subcommittee. An audio recording will be made of the expert presentations and subsequent discussions. A transcript will be made from the recording, and the transcript together with images of slides from invited presentations will serve as a “report” from the workshop and will be posted on the APS website as soon as possible.
- After the workshop and after further consultation as necessary, the subcommittee will recommend whether to re-affirm, revise, or replace the 2007 Climate Change Statement. If necessary, it will draft a new statement. The subcommittee will prepare a short (1-2 pages) report summarizing its procedures and the findings that led to its decision and to the new or revised statement, if one is proposed.

PROCEDURE CONT.

- If a new or revised APS statement is recommended, it will be reviewed by the Energy and Environment Subcommittee, and then presented to POPA at its February 2014 meeting. If approved by POPA at its June 2014 meeting, the standard APS statement approval process would be initiated. The members of the 2014 Energy & Environment Subcommittee are:
 - William Barletta (Acting Chair)
 - Robin Cote
 - William Goldstein
 - Robert Jaffe
 - Scott Kemp
 - William McCurdy
 - Stephen Pratt
 - Robert Rosner
 - Philip Taylor
 - Thomas Theis
 - James Wells

STEERING COMMITTEE

- The review process will be overseen, through to conclusion, by a steering committee of POPA members and advisors including:
 - Malcolm Beasley (APS President, 2014)
 - Kate Kirby (APS Executive Officer)
 - Steven Koonin (Review Subcommittee Chair; POPA Chair Elect, 2014)
 - Francis Slakey (APS Associate Director of Public Affairs)
 - Robert Jaffe, Chair (POPA Chair, 2014)

The subcommittee should consult the steering committee regarding any issues that arise during the review process, especially regarding transparency of the process, breadth of representation during the review, and relations with APS members.

TIMETABLE

- The proposed timetable is predicated on the publication of IPCC5 Part I early in the fall of 2013. If the report is delayed, the timetable will have to be adjusted accordingly.

MEMBERSHIP

- The members of the review subcommittee are
 - Philip Coyle
 - R. Scott Kemp
 - Steven Koonin (Chair)
 - Timothy Meyer
 - Robert Rosner
 - Susan Seestrom