

APS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION

COMMITTEE CHARGE

The membership of the Committee on Education consists of twelve members. Nine members are appointed by the President-Elect to staggered three-year terms while the Chair, Past-Chair and Chair-Elect from the Forum on Education serves as statutory members of the Committee. The President-Elect appoints the Chairperson from among the members. The Committee is responsible for advising the Society on matters pertaining to physics education at all levels including K-12, undergraduate, graduate, and beyond. The committee implements programs, suggests studies, and provides oversight or programs that improve physics learning.

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Chair: **Tim Stelzer**
Univ of Illinois, Urbana

Member: **Beth A Thacker**
Texas Tech Univ

Member: **Michael Jackson**
Millersville Univ

Member: **Juan Diaz**
Mount Aloysius College

Member: **Courtney Lannert**
Smith College

Member: **Laura Henriques**
Cal State Univ- Long Beach

Member: **Nancy Ruzycki**
Univ. of Florida - Gainesville

Member: **James Camparo**
Aerospace Corporation

Member: **Peter Andrew Sheldon**
Randolph College

FED Chair to COE: **John C Stewart**
West Virginia Univ

Member: **Vashti Sawtelle**
Michigan State Univ

FED Chair-Elect to COE: **Lawrence S Cain** Davidson Coll

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2016-17:

The committee is continuing to focus on Best Practices for Undergraduate Physics Programs (BPUPP). The guide should provide a physics-community-based resource to assist programs in developing a culture of continuous self-improvement, in keeping with their individual mission, context, and institutional type. It should help departments assess their curricula, pedagogy, advising, mentoring, recruitment and retention, research and internship opportunities, diversity, scientific skill development, career/workforce preparation, staffing, resources, and faculty professional development. A task force co-led by COE member Michael Jackson, and former COE member, David Craig, is developing sample chapters for the guide, as well as proposals for how the guide will continue to be maintained, developed and disseminated under COE. The COE voted to accept responsibility for the continued development of the guide once the task force has completed its initial version. This is a large responsibility and the COE is thinking carefully about the best infrastructure to properly support this project.

The COE has also been working in collaboration with the COM and the CSWP to develop a statement on the use of the Physics Graduate Record Examination (PGRE) in graduate admissions. There is unanimous concern that many graduate programs are using the scores in a manner not intended by the exam creators, and that is particularly detrimental to underrepresented applicants. There were and continue to be active discussions about the best wording of the statement to impact change. Advancing a statement will be an important priority for COE during the upcoming year.

The COE has also developed and approved a statement for POPA on teacher preparation. The key additions to the existing document include highlighting the department's responsibility to encourage and facilitate a timely process to degree for physics students interested in becoming K-12 teachers. The BPUPP document may also provide ideas for helping departments facilitated this process.

The committee also completed these actions:

- One face-to-face meeting on [March 11th at the APS headquarters](#), College Park, MD and another on [October 21st in Chicago, Illinois](#). One [Winter teleconference](#) meeting on January 23rd, and another in [the Summer on July 12](#). COE subcommittees have carried out many independent conference calls.
- Selected 2017 winners of the Award for Improving Undergraduate Physics Education, and proposed new deadline of June 15th
- Discussed possibilities for restructuring site visits, both the training of people facilitating the visits, and preparation for departments before the visit.
- Endorsed initiatives from the Education Policy Group and the Panel of Public Affairs (POPA)
- Approved overseeing the new REU Leadership group.
- Elected the new members of the Education Policy Committee (EPC) for 2018, subsequently approved by the COE

- Promoting/advertising educational issues via the FEd newsletter, in the Education Corner of APS News, and the Back Page article in the APS News.