

**Panel on Public Affairs
February 11, 2022
Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting**

POPA Members Present:

W. Collins (chair), W. McCurdy (chair-elect), E. Mazur (vice-chair), J. Adams, D. Dattlebum, S. Demers, S. Fetter, E. Gawiser, L. Grego, N. Holtkamp, Y. Kee-Kim, D. Lamb, D. Louca, J. Marston, K. Pudenz, B. Rosner, D. Stamper-Kurn, W. Taylor, M. White, J. Wurtele

Advisors and APS Staff Present:

F. Hellman, B. Rosner, M. Elsesser, N. Hernandez-Charpak, J. Oliver, J. Russo, F. Slakey

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

Call to Order: Collins opened the meeting with a brief welcome and introductions and a motion was made to approve the October 2021 meeting minutes.

Action: W. Collins called the meeting at 11:04 AM

Motion: To accept the October meeting minutes, as presented
(White, Gawiser)

Action: the motion passed (16 in favor)

Advocacy Update

Elsesser, Director of Government Affairs provided an overview of Government Affairs' approach to advocacy and highlighted 2022 CVD activities. With the efforts of APS leadership, APS's strong grassroots network and APS reports, GA has developed unique strategies to advance policy priorities. CVD is the most effective advocacy tool for influencing Members of Congress. APS 2022 Virtual CVD had 69 members from 28 states and 53 districts participate in more than 100+ meetings. Resulting in a 20% increase compared to APS 2021 CVD. The Methane Report supported two recommendations APS members presented to Congress regarding methane emissions: **1.** Develop a national strategy for testing and correlating methane measurements. **2.** Develop a national database of methane emission observations.

In response to APS efforts and the work of several organizations, the recently released NPSM-33 addresses strategies that will improve the US research environment and protect the nation against evident security risks.

National Security Subcommittee

Grego, Chair of the National Security Subcommittee gave an overview of the committee's work for the year ahead. The following statements are up for review by the subcommittee:

06.1 The Use of Nuclear Weapons - POPA suggested the committee add footnotes to support the information listed in the first paragraph and send it to PPC for comments.

01.1 Security & Science at the Weapons Laboratories - The NS subcommittee will redraft the statement to support the archived Board statement '99.3 National Security and the Open Conduct of Science' to make sure the statement is addressed with scientific openness and protection against discrimination efforts.

97.2 The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty - The statement will need updating to remain relevant and presented to the committee in June.

00.2 National Missile Defense System Technical Feasibility and Deployment - The BMD report was released to the public. The subcommittee will replace an archived statement on national missile defense. S. Fetter and L. Grego will work with the BMD authors to redraft a statement for POPA consideration at the June meeting.

Action: Gavel Transition
(Collins, McCurdy)

Physics & the Public Subcommittee

Demers, Chair of the Physics and the Public Subcommittee presented the 2022 statements up for review by the subcommittee.

2022 Statement Review:

02.5 Against the Call to Boycott Israeli Scientists

02.1 DOD Funding for Basic Research

The Committee on Informing the Public (CIP) presented a proposed APS Statement on Public Engagement and Career Advancement advocating that engagement-based effort be considered in recruitment and career advancement decisions by the facilitators' home institution.

Motion: to begin the formal statement process, working with CIP to address POPA members' concerns. The P&P Subcommittee will present a draft statement for POPA consideration in June.

(Mazur, White)

Action: the motion passed unanimously (16 in favor)

Energy & Environment Subcommittee

Collins, Chair of the Energy & Environment Subcommittee provided an overview of the subcommittee activities for the year. The subcommittee will review statement 17.1 Addressing the Global Energy Challenge: Accelerating the Transition to Carbon-Neutral Energy Sources and share back in June with any edits or changes.

Taylor, subcommittee member presented a proposal for a new POPA Study on Direct Air Capture. The study will investigate constraints on the scope of carbon capture efforts related to fundamental physics, and how technologies currently under development may be limited by such constraints.

Motion: to develop a detailed direct air capture study proposal that has the support of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee, and will be presented to POPA at the June Meeting

(Collins, Rosner)

Action: the motion passed unanimously (16 in favor)

Ethics Committee

Phinney, Chair of the Ethics Committee presented the recommended revisions to statement 19.1 Guidelines on Ethics by the Ethics Committee at the October meeting.

ENABLING MISCONDUCT

Ethical Principle

~~Persons in positions of responsibility such as group leaders, department heads and chairs, deans, or other administrators have a responsibility to ensure that all faculty, staff, and students understand and observe institutional policies on treatment of colleagues and subordinates. Harassment and other inappropriate behavior must not be tolerated.~~

Institutional policies on treatment of colleagues and subordinates must be understood and observed by all employees. Harassment and other inappropriate behavior must not be tolerated, and those who become aware of these behaviors, especially people in positions of authority such as group leaders, department heads and chairs, deans or other administrators cannot ignore them. Additionally, at educational institutions any Responsible Employee is required to report Title IX violations. A Responsible Employee is someone who has been given the duty of reporting incidents of sexual misconduct by students or employees to the Title IX Coordinator or other appropriate school designee.

Recommended Implementation

1. ~~Persons in authority who fail to respond appropriately to complaints~~ report violations or who tolerate inappropriate behavior may themselves be subject to a complaint about their behavior.

2. Persons in authority must refer complaints to their institutions promptly for investigation and **be respectful of the rights of both the victim and the accused**. They should be supportive of institutionally determined sanctions.
3. Persons making a complaint must be treated with confidentiality and protected. They should not be pressured to suppress the complaint, nor should they be subjected to retaliation of any kind.
4. APS views enabling as professional misconduct and may

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEETINGS

Ethical Principle

Anyone at an APS meeting who observes conduct in violation of these guidelines has an obligation to bring the violation to the attention of APS leadership, whether they are the victim or a bystander. If an observer feels able and safe calling out misconduct on-the-spot, they should respectfully intervene. Complaints can be brought to the attention of an APS staff member or they may be reported on the APS Ethics Hotline. Confidentiality must be maintained to the extent possible to protect the complainant.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND COMMITMENT

Ethical Principle

There are many professional activities of physicists that have the potential for conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment that may be personal, commercial, political, academic, or financial. **Relevant conflicts are matters that may prevent full attention being paid to one's responsibilities, improperly influence one's judgment and decision-making, or when revealed later, would make others feel misled or deceived.** Conflicts of interest can arise from employment, research funding, stock ownership, payment for lectures or travel, consultancies, and corporate support for staff. Conflicts of commitment include acceptance of projects or roles that are beyond one's available time and resources.

Recommended Implementation

1. Conflicts or potential conflicts of interest **and commitment** must be fully disclosed. **Openness and transparency help ensure appropriate disclosure and** allow determination of whether **conflicts** can be managed, or whether conflicting **activities** should be discontinued.
2. **Scientists and institutions should ensure reciprocity in the exchange of research information between all collaborating partners.**
3. Conflicts of interest **and commitment** relevant to the publication process must be declared to editors by researchers, authors, and reviewers. Editors should also disclose relevant conflicts of interest and commitment to their readers. Sometimes editors may need to withdraw from the review and selection process for the relevant submission.
4. Conflicts of interest **and commitment** associated with awards and promotion decisions are defined by institutional policies and must be disclosed.
5. When a subordinate is engaged to work on a project, the supervisor and subordinate should each ensure that they have sufficient time and resources to perform the work successfully.

Motion: approve recommended revisions to statement 19.1 Guidelines on Ethics as presented by the Ethics Committee for Board consideration in April
(Gawiser, White)

Action: the motion passed (15 in favor, 0 against, and 1 abstention)

Action: Adjournment, McCurdy ended the meeting at 2:41 PM