

American Mathematical Society
Committee on Science Policy Meeting
April 21-22, 2020
Washington, DC

Committee Meeting Summary Report

The Committee on Science Policy (CSP) met over two days to discuss and resolve issues of the committee. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held virtually.

The usual presentations by guest speakers did not occur at this meeting. The scheduled speakers were as follows: Mark Green, Chair, Board on Mathematical Sciences and Analytics, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; Michelle Schwalbe, Director, Board on Mathematical Sciences and Analytics, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; Patty Evers, Deputy Director at Committee on Human Rights, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; Sara Barber, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; and Lucia Simonelli, 2019-2020 AMS Congressional Fellow, Office of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI).

Catherine Roberts, Executive Director of the AMS, welcomed the committee to this new virtual platform for a committee meeting. She discussed highlights from 2019, an update on the strategic plan, and COVID-19 pandemic.

Karen Saxe, Associate Executive Director, Office of Government Relations, discussed how the AMS submits letters to Congress and various other government agencies, sharing the AMS perspective on policies and legislation. Some of these letters were written solely by AMS staff and leadership, sometimes by coalitions of scientific societies. Beginning this year, letters sent the previous calendar year are to be attached to the agenda for this meeting, and will become a part of the governance record.

Committee Actions:

1. A subcommittee was formed in 2018 to conduct a comprehensive review of the AMS National Policy Statement and to potentially draft a new statement for consideration by AMS Council. At the 2019 CSP meeting, it was decided that a new statement should be written and a subcommittee was formed to take on this work. This effort is still underway and a new subcommittee was formed at this year's meeting to continue this work.
2. A subcommittee was created at the 2019 CSP meeting to review the AMS Public Policy Award to determine if the AMS should make these awards in the future. A new subcommittee was formed at this year's meeting to continue the examination of the award and it will make a recommendation to CoProf once their work is complete. This award was established in 2007 on the recommendation of CoProf and approved by the Council, but has never been given for various reasons.
3. During the past year, a joint subcommittee between COMC and CSP formed to consider whether or not the AMS should revise policies having to do with selection of sites for Sectional meetings. COMC met a few weeks before CSP and requested that the work for this subcommittee continue. CSP agreed to this, and will continue this work.

4. Each year the AMS sponsors a mathematician to serve as the AMS Congressional Fellow. A subcommittee was formed to help with the selection process.
5. A subcommittee was formed to plan for the CSP panel at the JMM in Washington, DC in 2021.

Date of Next Meeting

The 2021 Committee on Science Policy meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23 and Wednesday, March 24, 2021 in Washington, DC.