

**American Mathematical Society  
Committee on Science Policy Meeting  
March 15-16, 2022  
Washington, D.C.**

**Committee Meeting Summary Report**

The Committee on Science Policy (CSP) met in person and virtually over two days to hear presentations by key DC-based policymakers and funders; discuss and resolve issues of the committee; as well as to plan committee activities for the coming year.

**Presentations were given by**

**Sara Barber and Catherine Johnson**

*House Science, Space and Technology Committee; Subcommittee on Research and Technology*

Dr. Barber gave an overview of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, including its jurisdiction, membership, recent achievements and priorities in 2022.

**Matt Hourihan**

*Director of R&D Budget and Policy Program, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)*

Hourihan discussed the current wild time in Congress's federal science funding negotiations, with both final spending bills for FY 2022 AND a new White House science budget en route. He helped us make sense of what's happening and get up to date on the funding outlook for NSF and other research funders.

**Kei Koizumi**

*Principal Deputy Director for Policy, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy*

Koizumi discussed the legislative and policy agenda of the Biden-Harris Administration regarding science and technology. He also discussed funding proposals for Federal R&D and STEM education activities, and concluded by discussing recent OSTP activities in the above.

**David Manderscheid**

*Division Director, Division of Mathematical Sciences, National Science Foundation*

Dr. Manderscheid led a discussion about his plans and vision for the Mathematical Sciences at the NSF.

**AJ Stewart**

*AMS Congressional Fellow, Office of Senator Raphael Warnock*

Dr. Stewart described his experience as the AMS Congressional Fellow, what it means to work in Congress and why more mathematicians should do it.

***AMS Executive Director Report***

Catherine Roberts, AMS Executive Director, was invited to give a report and lead a discussion on topics relevant to CSP. She gave an overview of the overall AMS budget and endowment, and described the Society's largest sources of revenue.

She moved on to discuss AMS operations and how they have been affected over the pandemic period. The AMS Office of Government Relations made 75 different Hill visits—many with mathematicians across the country--in the last year; this dramatic increase is arguably a positive that came from the pandemic. AMS employees returned to the office in July, 2021. One of the biggest projects in 2021 was how to successfully turn our operations virtual, including congressional briefing, meetings, and MathSciNet operations.

She then discussed recent changes in publishing, including our new open access journal, the number of books published last year, and changes to MathSciNet.

She concluded her report with comments about staffing losses and needs at the AMS. There has been significant turnover in the past year, and this has presented operational challenges. Deborah Lockhart complimented Catherine Roberts on continuing to do a great job through such high staff turnover.

#### *AMS Director of Government Relations Report*

Karen Saxe, AMS Associate Executive Director and Director of Government Relations, was invited to give a report and lead a discussion on topics relevant to CSP.

The AMS Government Relations office sends letters to Congress, the White House, and other decision-makers in Washington; letters sent in 2021 were compiled and provided with the agenda.

Karen Saxe updated the committee on the AMS Office of Government Relations (OGR). She spoke about the 33 letters that were sent from the AMS Office of Government Relations and the bills that AMS endorsed in 2021. Moving forward we now have a public facing webpage <https://www.ams.org/government/government/letters-statements-legislation> where one can view letters and endorsements, so this will not be included as an attachment to future CSP agendas. She went into detail about the bills that we endorsed in 2021 and their progress through Congress. The committee was referred to the Take Action webpage [https://www.ams.org/government/getinvolved-dc#/.](https://www.ams.org/government/getinvolved-dc#/)

Karen Saxe organizes hill visits alone and with coalitions. As Catherine Roberts reported, many more have taken place during COVID, as virtual meetings have made travel to Washington, DC unnecessary.

The AMS Office of Government Relations runs, in partnership with AAAS, 3 fellowships--the Case Fellowship, the Mass Media Fellowship and the Congressional Fellowship. Updates were given on the number of applications, and search processes for each.

#### **Committee Actions:**

1. The committee will ask the Committee on Education to jointly discuss data on education.
2. The committee expressed the desire to meet with congressional members who are key in policy-making about the Department of Education, to discuss the GAANN program. AMS DC staff will arrange these.
3. The committee decided to hold a two-hour virtual meeting in the fall of 2022. The main purpose will be to get updates from each subcommittee (described below).
4. Each year, CSP forms subcommittees that will continue work throughout the next year. For 2022, these are as follows:

- a. Each year the AMS sponsors a mathematician to serve as the AMS Congressional Fellow. A subcommittee was formed to help with the selection process for the 2023-2024 Fellow.
- b. A subcommittee was formed to plan for the CSP panel at the JMM in Boston, MA in 2023.
- c. A subcommittee was formed to draft talking points on the role of mathematical sciences in data science and AI. These will be used to develop a one-pager for delivery to Congressional members.
- d. The already-formed subcommittee for revising the National Policy Statement will continue its work.
- e. A subcommittee was formed to help with diversifying the pool of Congressional Fellow applicants. Such a committee was formed last year but never met.
- f. A subcommittee was formed to research the fact that mathematics is no longer considered an "area of national need" by the Department of Education (<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/gaann/index.html>) and to decide whether or not the AMS should advocate for its reinstatement.