

**American Mathematical Society  
Committee on Science Policy Meeting  
April 15-16, 2019  
Washington, DC**

**Committee Meeting Summary Report**

The Committee on Science Policy (CSP) met over two days with presentations on the AMS Congressional Fellowship, current legislative outlook for the House Committee on Science Space and Technology in Congress, the American Physical Society's approach to grassroots advocacy and government relations, an update on activities conducted on behalf of the National Science Foundation's Division of Mathematical Sciences and federal investment research in the 2020 budget.

***James Ricci***

***Office of Senator Amy Klobuchar, AMS Congressional Fellow 2018-19***

James Ricci began his presentation by broadly describing the 2018-2019 AAAS Science and Technology Fellowship program. He highlighted the importance of fellows bringing technical expertise and diverse perspectives to the legislative process, while gaining lasting and valuable learning experiences throughout. He then discussed the Congressional Fellowship program and his personal experience as a legislative staffer in the Office of Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN).

Ricci provided insight on conducting successful visits with Congressional offices on Capitol Hill. He talked about the importance of preparation, concise messaging, emphasizing one's connection to the state, and how one's request will impact the legislator's constituents. He also mentioned the importance of coordinating with other societies and institutions within one's respective state—emphasizing that repeatedly hearing about issues makes a difference. Ricci concluded his presentation by outlining the importance of following up with legislative offices post-visit and encouraging more advocacy participation from others.

***Sara Barber***

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

Sara Barber provided an introduction and overview of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's legislative outlook in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. Barber described the makeup of the committee, its leadership, legislative jurisdiction, and priorities. Barber identified the committees the science community should be most aware of in both the House and Senate—the Appropriations committee in both chambers; House Science, Space, and Technology committee; and the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation committee. She discussed legislation enacted in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress including the National Quantum Initiative Act, (INSPIRE) Women Act, and Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship Act.

Sara Barber described bills introduced by the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress so far, including the Combatting Sexual Harassment in STEM Act (HR 36)—endorsed by the AMS; the STEM Opportunities Act; and the National Gun Violence Research (HR 435). She mentioned the introduction of the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act (HR 1396), a bill relevant to AMS advocacy priorities, and encouraged CSP members to reach out to their representatives for support of this bill. She listed committee hearings that have taken place recently on The State of

Climate Science and Why it Matters; The Future of ARPA-E; Maintaining US Leadership in Science and Technology; and A Review of the NIST FY 2020 Budget Request.

***Francis Slakey***  
***Chief Government Affairs Officer***  
***American Physical Society (APS)***

Francis Slakey provided an overview of the American Physical Society's advocacy priorities and methods for advancing these. Slakey discussed how the APS Office of Government Affairs transformed their advocacy strategies from DC based advocacy to field based grassroots mobilization. He discussed his office's efforts in working with local APS member/constituents in target states or districts to deliver messages through op-ed articles from local media outlets to congressional offices.

He then provided the staff composition of the Office of Government Affairs and their functions, emphasizing the importance of staff commitment on the larger reach of grassroots mobilization. The Office of Government Affairs routinely undergoes an oversight process in order to authorize advocacy efforts on a specific issue. Slakey identified the Office of Government Affairs current issues, listing scientific mobility, the federal research budget, and sexual harassment as some of the Society's top priorities.

***Juan Meza***  
***Director, Division of Mathematical Sciences***  
***National Science Foundation (NSF)***

Juan Meza gave an update on the National Science Foundation's Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS), giving an overview of the funding opportunities influence on the division. He discussed the 35 day government shutdown due to a lapse in appropriations and the shutdown's impact on the NFS. The government shutdown halted NSF-DMS participation with the mathematics community and directly influenced AMS-NSF engagement during the 2019 Joint Mathematics Meetings.

The NFS received \$8.075 billion in funding for fiscal year 2019, the first time breaking the \$8 billion mark. Meza looked ahead to the top solicitations for future NSF investment research, noting in particular the Big Ideas. He also discussed the future direction of the DMS, highlighting the partnerships developed within the NSF, with other agencies, with private foundations, and with international bodies.

***Kei Koizumi***  
***Senior Advisor for Science Policy***  
***American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)***

Kei Koizumi discussed federal investments in scientific research in the President's 2020 budget, which was released on March 11. He highlighted the growth of private contribution and decline of federal share investments in scientific research and development. Policymakers in Washington, DC have begun to re-evaluate the federal contribution to R&D, considering the United States' position harnessing new knowledge and technology to meet national challenges and stay economically competitive.

Kei Koizumi analyzed trends in federal scientific research investments over time. The federal investment for scientific research is dispersed throughout a number of federal agencies, and Koizumi recognized the substantial increase in federal funding for agencies that support mathematics and computer science—although research funding for life sciences remains significantly higher than for other scientific disciplines.

Koizumi then discussed the Trump Administration's budget for science and technology agencies for FY2020; the budget request remains consistent with proposals released by the Administration in the previous years. The Trump Administration has consistently proposed steep cuts to key programs within

the federal research enterprise, including the NIH, NSF, DOD and DOE. Kei Koizumi acknowledged the importance of advocacy from the scientific community and its previous achievement working with Congress to counter these proposed cuts.

Congress appropriated a record amount of federal research funding in 2018, the last year for which budgeting is complete. Koizumi addressed the scientific research priorities in the President's budget request for FY2020 that are related to the mathematical sciences; these include American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Information Sciences, and Strategic Computing; American Energy Dominance; and Security of the American People. Research priorities outlined in the Trump Administration's budget will likely remain in the final appropriated budget for 2020.

***Rush Holt***

***Chief Executive Officer***

***American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)***

Rush Holt led a discussion with the AMS CSP to review activities occurring at the AAAS and discuss the role of science in American democracy. Holt gave an overview of the history of the AAAS and the organization's efforts in scientific advocacy. The AAAS has a composition of 120,000 members and 250 affiliated societies, including the AMS. The AAAS has a number of programs carried out with members and affiliated societies including those focused on STEM education at all levels; science and its connections to human rights, law, and religion; and publishing activities. He specifically addressed standards and issues around integrity of science, peer review, and implicit bias.

Holt discussed his organization's policy communication efforts including the launch of SciLine. SciLine is designed to provide journalists with high-quality scientific expertise and context, particularly useful to reporters in small and medium media areas who are writing stories associated with STEM. Holt acknowledged the critical need for an evidence-based scientific approach to policy decision making and the launch of the Center for Scientific Evidence in Public Issues (EPI Center). The EPI Center is intended to make nonpartisan and scientifically based information available to legislators.

He also provided information on the Campaign for Science, and initiative intended to increase support for science, by working locally.

***Date of Next Meeting***

The 2020 Committee on Science Policy meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 and Wednesday, April 22, 2020 in Washington, DC.