Charge of the Committee

The Advocacy and Public Policy Committee (APPC) is a standing committee that develops and oversees ARL’s role in monitoring, evaluating and influencing federal legislation, regulation and other public policy, including international policy, that affects the research community and the development of policies and position statements that benefit all research libraries. APPC develops strategic and timely communications to keep the membership informed on key issues; develops position statements that support ARL members individually and collectively; and helps members mobilize and respond to pending legislation, policies, and budgetary considerations affecting ARL, its members and the community. APPC seeks ways to partner with like-minded organizations in developing effective ways to share opinion, influence law and legislation and communicate member concerns and support. APPC has long served as the collective voice for ARL and prompts collective action on public policies issues for the research library community.

ARL recognizes and respects that the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) is best positioned to represent Canadian research libraries’ interests to the Canadian federal government, and to this end, ARL works in close collaboration with CARL on Canadian legislative and public policy matters.

Framework and Context for the Committee

1. Describe the Breadth and Focus of the Committee
   - Ensure that U.S. and Canadian policy issues are evaluated and addressed and work with CARL on Canadian policy issues.
   - Define legislative priorities for issues the Association should monitor and respond to, including copyright, open access, open data, accessibility, diversity and inclusion, telecommunications, privacy and others.
   - Ensure the membership is informed about key issues such as copyright and open access, including pending legislation.
   - Promote active engagement of the membership in policy issues.
   - Support the advocacy and public policy aspects of design team projects and initiatives.
   - Recommend and/or approve ARL and member sign-on for letters and statements in appropriate cases.
   - Determine when individual institution sign-on is appropriate and facilitate the process for sending or signing on to letters and statements.
   - Recommend and develop key partnerships to advance the work of the committee and ARL.
   - Develop ways to measure the impact of efforts.
2. Current Programs, Projects and Activities of the Association That Fit Within the Scope of the Committee

**Dissemination of Information**

- Distribute regular updates on key advocacy and policy issues.
- Distribute talking points on issues of importance, including pending legislation.
- Enhance ways to engage the full ARL membership, including through advocacy and policy forum programming at the membership meetings.
- Ensure that updates and information are disseminated widely through appropriate channels (including beyond the ARL members to ensure that senior staff at ARL institutions are well-informed about policy issues).
- Use social media to promote issues of importance and highlight the work of APC.

**Expanding Collaboration and Maintaining Partnerships**

- Promote collaboration with campus federal relations officers and other key individuals, such as Vice Presidents of Research, with and through ARL Directors.
- Continue to engage in successful partnerships and collaborations, including with SPARC, AAU, APLU, ALA, ACRL, EDUCAUSE and other organizations and coalitions such as Re:create and ORI.
- Recommend ARL endorsement or sign-on of letters, statements and other materials with or from collaborators in appropriate cases.
- Determine when individual institution sign-on is appropriate and facilitate the process.

**Encouraging Active Participation and Engagement**

- Create templates for letters, including where appropriate, by sending out information regarding Congressional delegations for Directors to use.
- Promote prompt sign-on to key letters and statements when it is beneficial to have individual institutional signatories.

3. Programs/Projects That Are Not Within the Scope of the Committee

- APC is focused on federal legislation and actions and usually does not monitor or engage in state or local legislation.

**Next Steps for the Advocacy and Policy Committee**

(Delineate what else the design team and/or committee wants to know, research, survey, etc. prior to October.)

1. Determine how APPC will interact with the design teams. APPC suggests having a committee liaison for each design team to ensure smooth communication and ensure that APPC is properly poised to support the work and projects of each team.
2. Explore ways to improve active engagement of members in advocacy and policy issues.
3. Consider other ways to engage with partners/collaborators at ARL member institutions, such as federal relations officers and Vice Presidents of Research, with and through ARL Directors.

4. Develop ways to evaluate the impact of the Committee. There are a variety of potential indicators and APPC could work with the Assessment Committee to develop ways to evaluate impact.

5. Work with the communications firm engaged by ARL to promote and highlight the work and issues of the committee.

6. Continue to work with Diversity and Inclusion Committee on diversity and accessibility issues.

Advocacy and Public Policy Committee

David Carlson, chair (Texas A&M)
Ginney Steel, vice-chair (UCLA)
Richard Clement (New Mexico)
Geneva Henry (George Washington)
Ingrid Parent (British Columbia)
Judy Russell (Florida)
Steve Smith (Tennessee)
Winston Tabb (Johns Hopkins)
Ed Van Gemert (Wisconsin-Madison)
Sandy Yee (Wayne State)
Susan Haigh, CARL, ex-officio
Staff Liaisons: Prue Adler and Krista Cox