

Acoustical Society of America

Spring 2018 Meeting Agenda for Committee on Publication Policy Minneapolis, MN

- Draft minutes -

Date & Location: Wednesday, 9 May 2018, 7:00-8:15 am, Lakeshore B

To:

Members present: Keith Wilson (Chair to 2018), Andrew Morrison (2018), Roger Waxler (2018), Tim Duda (2019), Erick Gallun (2019), Michael Haberman (2019), Jennifer Miksis-Olds (2019), Laura Kloepper (2020)

Members not present: Diane Kewley-Port (2018), Carolina Abdala (2020), Alex Case (2020), Alan Wall (2020)

Ex-Officio Members: Jim Lynch (Editor-in-Chief), Lily Wang (President-Elect)

Guests present: Kent Gee (Editor, POMA), Charles Church (Editor, JASA EL), Art Popper (Editor, Acoustics Today), Fred Kontur (AIPP), Jason Bardi (AIPP), Liz Bury (ASA Managing Editor), Mary Guillemette (ASA Publications Manager), Kat Setzer (Editorial Coordinator, Acoustics Today), Kali Burke (Student Council), Vladimir Ostashev (nominated as new Chair)

Committee Charge:

37. COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION POLICY

37.1 Charged with reviewing and suggesting changes in the policy, contents, and format of the Journal and other Society publications, but excluding the book-plus program and Standards, for consideration by the Editor-in-Chief and the Executive Council, and proposing new publications.

37.2 Composed of the Chair and members appointed by the President, and the Editor-in-Chief and President-Elect as ex-officio members.

1. Introductions

2. Publication Policy Committee web page

A PP site has been set up and is being maintained by the Committee chair. Agendas and minutes from past meetings are being stored there. There is also a "suggestion box" where ASA members can suggest topics for PP meetings, although this has never been utilized. Setzer offered to publicize this feature by social media.

3. Update on the ASA journals and AIP Publishing initiatives

Kontur discussed various publication metrics. Although the JASA impact factor (around 1.6) is lower than desired (above 2), JASA excels in other metrics such as eigenfactor, where it is #1 in the acoustic journals category (among 31 journals). The IF likely influences decisions to submit manuscripts to JASA, particularly from some foreign countries. Lynch discussed an initiative to improve outreach with potential authors in China. Gallun suggested considering a Chinese translation for the manuscript submission site.

4. AIP Media Services

Bardi described AIPP initiatives to improve press visibility for ASA activities. It would be desirable to reintroduce a capability in the manuscript management system that allows AEs to flag articles that may be of broader interest, and if such manuscripts are flagged, what should be the procedure for creating a press release. A suggestion was floated that authors of JASA manuscripts should create a 1-2 sentence “lead” of their papers, as is currently done with *Acoustics Today* articles. Miksis-Olds pointed out the importance of notifying all authors when manuscripts are publicized, since the lead author may be a student or not communicate with the other authors.

5. Miscellaneous items from the Publications Office

The Publications Office is transitioning to a “remote” office arrangement, where the employees can be distributed geographically and interact electronically. This results in a cost savings and enables recruitment without geographic constraints.

6. Splitting JASA and JASA-EL into separate journals

The EiC has proposed splitting the *Express Letters* section from regular JASA. EL would become a purely electronic publication with a separate ISSN number. This would allow EL to have a distinct identity and also focus on its mission of rapid publication. Also, since the IF of EL is lower than regular JASA, the move would raise JASA’s impact factor somewhat. The infrastructure is in place to make this change reasonably efficiently. There was some discussion of changing the name of EL, but the consensus of the Committee was that it would be risky. The Committee recommended removing the current EL limitation of 15 references. There was also some discussion of removing the page length description, but the Committee consensus was that the articles should continue to be short.

The Committee voted on the following resolution: “The Committee endorses the proposal to publish *JASA Express Letters* separately from *JASA*.” The resolution passed unanimously, 6-0.

7. Impact factor discussion

Many Committee members voiced concern with the trend of using Impact Factor (IF) to assess journal quality. There was consensus that it is not an appropriate metric for an acoustics journal such as JASA, primarily because acoustics is a relatively small field with a large time constant for papers, which leads to a low IF. Kontur recommended publishing more high-profile review articles, which positively impact IF while also being very useful for readers. Lynch indicated that the ASA is working on a pamphlet describing the Society’s position on IF and other metrics. As noted above, JASA performs very well on other metrics, and this fact should be promoted. Committee members stressed how it would be desirable to post this information to a web page as soon as possible, since it will provide support to authors who are being evaluated for promotion decisions, etc.