

March 16, 2017

Greetings, STAC Board and Committee Chairs,

I'm writing to share with you a new option and opportunity for your board or committee to strengthen STAC and simultaneously assist the [AMS Policy Program](#). By way of background, recently, Paul Higgins, the AMS Policy Program Director initiated a new memo project to communicate critical information relating to weather, water and climate to scientists, the public, the media, and decision-makers. You can view the initial memos that have been created at www.ametsoc.org/memos. The memos are brief (two pages or less) non-technical descriptions of topics of broad interest. **Critically, AMS Policy Program memos are policy relevant but not policy prescriptive.**

This initiative has strong potential to inform AMS members, Commissions, Council, and staff of key issues facing our community and to improve how we communicate about our work both within STAC and with outside audiences. Paul and I invite your board/committee (B/C) to create memos that describe a key issue that is relevant to your B/C.

I suggest that you might initially consider the primary science focus of your B/C and why this is important to society. Think about what are key opportunities and needs that remain for scientific advancement. How can society most effectively benefit from the committee's science? What are the key policy dimensions of the issue (again noting that these memos are intended to be policy relevant without being prescriptive)?

These memos would be authored by the individual STAC B/C and its members. They would be subject to approval by the STAC commissioner in concert with Paul Higgins, who will provide feedback and suggestions for fine-tuning the draft memos. Once approved, STAC-created memos would be hosted on the committee's web page (I would recommend a new tab on the left side of each B/C website labelled, for example, "Atmospheric Chemistry Memos.") Of course, the AMS Policy Program will also include a link from to the memos from its web page, again, www.ametsoc.org/memos.

The memos should certainly serve to inform readers just what the B/C does and why its efforts matter. The memos could be valuable for members and perspective members of all B/Cs. It would give them all a shared understanding of their roles and an improved capacity to articulate their importance to outside audiences. Additionally, within STAC, the memos could help promote synergy among the 36 STAC B/Cs in identifying areas of shared interests and finding natural partners for joint conferences.

What audiences would the memos target? Certainly, members and prospective members of the B/C and other STAC B/Cs. Additionally, AMS members, other AMS Commissions, AMS elected leadership and staff all could benefit from these short summaries of our key science areas of expertise and study. Finally, through outreach, groups outside the AMS to include other scientists, policy makers, the public, and the media could have access to and benefit from the memos.

Again, the memos are an option, by no means required for your B/C. Please contact me, Dave, or Genevieve with any questions or ideas you may have!

Bruce

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