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To: Board on Government Relations (BGR)
From: Tim Wei, Chair, BGR Policy Committee
Subj: Government Relations Policy Committee Report
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Highlights of Government Relations activities since the November 2007 Board meeting, are provided below.

INTER-SECTOR COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL R&D

Tim Wei, Chair of the Board on Government Relations Public Policy Committee, convened the annual “Inter-Sector Committee on Federal R&D” meeting on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, February 26, 2008. Twenty-five ASME Task Force members were briefed on the Fiscal Year 2009 Engineering Research and Development Budget Request. Guest speakers included Dan Byers, Deputy Associate Director, Technology Division, Office of Science and Technology Policy; Kei Koizumi, Director, R&D Budget and Policy Programs, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Jim Turner, Chief Democratic Counsel, House Science and Technology Committee; and Kathryn Clay, Republican Professional Staff, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. During the afternoon, task force members met with agency officials from the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Energy, National Institutes of Standards and Technology; U.S. Department of Defense; and National Institutes of Health.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND NANOTECHNOLOGY IN THE FY09 BUDGET REQUEST

Tim Wei and Mihail Roco, Senior Advisor to the National Science Foundation finalized ASME’s chapters on “Mechanical Engineering” and “Nanotechnology in the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request.” Both chapters were included in the American Association for the Advancement of Science Report XXXIII which is available to review at <http://www.aaas.org/spp/rd/rd09main.htm> Copies of the report will be sent to all Board and Task Force Members.

POSITION STATEMENTS:

ASME released a total of 26 position statements on the following priority issues since July 2008:

<u>Public Policy Agenda Issues</u>	<u># of Pos. Statements Released</u>
Energy	4
STEM Education	9
Research and Development	8
Environment	0 (<i>Climate Change Position Statement in Progress</i>)
Codes & Standards	3
Professional Issues	2

Noteworthy:

- ASME President Sam Y. Zamrik sent a number of letters urging support for the America COMPETES Act. A number of the position statements issued by the various ASME Task Forces on the Fiscal year 2009 Research and Development Budget Request also urged Congressional appropriators to provide funding for the “America COMPETES Act.”

- The Climate Change Task Force continues to work on updating ASME’s 1999 Climate Change Position Statement, which will be provided to the Board this year for review and approval. The Task Force Chair has also been collaborating with AIChE, IEEE, and ASCE on various carbon mitigation projects, including the creation of a new publication related to the topic of climate change and tailored to engineering disciplines.
- A detailed list on the position statements is provided at the end of this doc.

INVOLVEMENT WITH COALITIONS AND CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUSES

ASME staff have been actively involved in working with the following coalitions and caucuses:

- Energy Sciences Coalition
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Coalition
- Task Force on the Future of American Innovation
- Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF)
- Coalition for National Security Research (CNSR)
- Voluntary Consensus Standards Coalition

ASME has taken a leadership role in identifying and initiating briefings and meetings on topics of interest to the Congressional R&D Caucus and the Congressional Diversity & Innovation Caucus. ASME is also actively involved in supporting activities on behalf of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Caucus, as well as a new High Performance Buildings Caucus.

ASME PRESIDENT TESTIFIES IN SUPPORT OF FY 2009 NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION BUDGET REQUEST

On Wed., April 2nd, ASME President Sam Y. Zamrik, Ph.D., testified before the House Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies calling on Congress to fund the National Science Foundation (NSF) at a minimum of \$6.85 billion, the level proposed in the Administration’s FY 2009 budget request. In his testimony, Zamrik urged appropriators to continue to support research and development at the National Science Foundation and to fund the “America COMPETES Act.” Zamrik’s written statement, which was filed for the hearing record, is available at <http://www.asme.org/NewsPublicPolicy/GovRelations/PositionStatements/> under PS#08-09.

ASME PRESIDENT’S AWARD PRESENTED TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

ASME President Sam Zamrik presented the prestigious “ASME President’s Award” to Representative Judy Biggert (R-IL) and Representative Silvestre Reyes (D-TX). Rep. Biggert, co-chair of the Congressional Research and Development Caucus, was recognized for “her leadership in advancing the science, engineering and technology enterprise which is so vital to this nation.” Rep. Reyes, chair of the Congressional Diversity and Innovation Caucus, was recognized for “his outstanding contributions to promoting diversity in engineering, science and technology.”

ASME Past President Terry Shoup also recently presented the “ASME President’s Award” to Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ). Currently serving as co-chair of the Congressional Research and Development Caucus, Rep. Holt was recognized for “his leadership in advancing the science, engineering and technology enterprise which is so vital to this nation.” Shoup also presented the ASME President's Award to Michael Cronin, President and Chief Executive Officer of Cognition Corporation, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of engineering as an innovator, entrepreneur and Chair of ASME's Industry Advisory Board.

6TH ANNUAL ENGINEERING R&D SYMPOSIUM

ASME was the lead convener and organizer of the “6th Annual Engineering R&D Symposium,” which was convened on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 on Capitol Hill. This forum is a sterling example of engineering

societies working together to promote the research and development investment that is so crucial to our Societies, to our members, and to the nation at large.

In 2007, the ASME Board of Government Relations obtained a grant from the United Engineering Foundation for \$60,000 to pay for all expenses associated with the Symposium. For the second year in a row, we convened the Symposium in conjunction with the National Academy of Engineering Convocation and the American Association of Engineering Societies Reception and Annual Meeting. This has been a successful forum for leaders of the engineering community – the President, Pres-Elect and Executive Directors – from the various societies to share information and collaborate on public policy issues that affect engineering research.

Symposium speakers include: The Honorable John Marburger, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the White House; The Honorable David Wu (D-OR), Chairman, Subcommittee on Innovation and Technology; The Honorable Ralph Hall (R-TX), Ranking Minority Member, House Committee on Science and Technology; Kei Koizumi, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Mike Holland, Office of Management and Budget; and an overview on conducting congressional visits was presented by Leslie Nolen of ASCE and Russ Lefevre of IEEE-USA.

The Administration and Congressional speakers were asked to discuss their R&D priorities during this session, as well as the prospects for funding the America COMPETES Act. Presentations from the Symposium are available at www.engineeringpolicy.org The Symposium speakers were videotaped, so the video will be posted on EngineeringPolicy.org for cosponsoring societies to view.

A plaque was presented to Dr. Marburger on behalf of the engineering community, stating, “In recognition of his leadership, and appreciation of his contributions to developing sound science, engineering and technology policies and investments in research and development that promote U.S. technological leadership and economic prosperity.”

Cosponsors:

A list of the 27 multidisciplinary engineering organizations who cosponsored the Symposium is provided below:

Lead Sponsors

United Engineering Foundation
ASME (*Program Chair*)
AIChE
AIME
ASCE
IEEE-USA

Co-Sponsoring Organizations

American Association of Engineering Societies
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American National Standards Institute
American Nuclear Society
American Society for Engineering Education
American Society for Testing & Materials
American Society of Agricultural & Biological Engineers
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers
Federation of Materials Societies

Human Factors & Ergonomics Society
International Society for Optical Engineering
Junior Engineering Technical Society
National Academy of Engineering
National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying
National Society of Black Engineers
National Society of Professional Engineers
Optical Society of America
Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, Inc.
Society of Automotive Engineers
Society of Women Engineers
The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society

Congressional Visits

Symposium cosponsors were urged to conduct congressional visits during the afternoon. A total of 39 visits were scheduled, primarily for ASME and IEEE-USA members, with AIChE participating on two of those visits. Seven of those visits were joint visits by ASME/IEEE members. ASME also had 13 early careers members participating in congressional visits for the first time.

Reception

A reception was convened for Symposium attendees to commemorate the “50th Anniversary of the House Science and Technology Committee.” Jon Nelson, Chair of the American Association of Engineering Societies (AAES), presented a plaque to Rep. Bart Gordon (D-TN), Chairman and Rep. Ralph Hall (R-TX), Ranking Member of the Committee on behalf of the engineering community.

Early Career Dinner

ASME convened a dinner for our early Career Members after the Reception. We invited Rep. Gerald McNerney (D-CA), who has a Ph.D. in Mathematics and a background in wind energy, and Dr. George Borlase, ASME’s Federal Fellow at the Office of Science and Technology Policy to discuss “How Engineers Can Contribute to the Public Policy Process.”

ASME CONVENES “FOSTERING INNOVATION” BRIEFING FOR CONGRESSIONAL R&D CAUCUS

On April 3rd, ASME, in conjunction with the Congressional Research and Development Caucus, convened a congressional briefing entitled, “Fostering Innovation: Key to U.S. Competitiveness in the Global Economy.” Rep. Judy Biggert, Co-Chair of the Congressional R&D Caucus attended the briefing, stating “Those of us who are Members of Congress or Congressional staff are responsible for fostering innovation through the law – technology transfer laws, laws that affect technology licensing and intellectual property rights, and the creation of incentives for innovation such as the R&D tax credit. Having a better understanding of how American companies innovate will be extremely useful as we work to ensure that our laws and government policies don’t impede innovation and competitiveness, but instead promote it.”

Guest speakers included John W. Ahlen, Ph.D., President, Arkansas Science and Technology Authority, Carla O’Dell Ph.D., President of the American Productivity and Quality Center (APQC), as well as George Pohle, Vice President & Global Leader, IBM Business Strategy Consulting Practice. Additional information about this briefing can be found on the Caucus Advisory Committee’s web site at: <http://www.researchcaucus.org> This briefing was videotaped and is available at http://www.asme.org/Communities/Technical/Energy/Public_Policy.cfm

ASME CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING HIGHLIGHTS “COALS-TO-LIQUIDS: BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE OF FUEL”

ASME recently joined with the United Engineering Foundation (UEF), American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers (AIME) and IEEE-USA to cosponsor a Congressional briefing entitled “Coals-to-Liquids: Bridge to the Future of Fuel.” The briefing highlighted the technological evolution of the coals-to-liquids (CTL) technology since its inception, as well as the potential and challenges associated with it.

Moderating the briefing was ASME member Dr. Dick Bajura, who currently serves as the Director of the National Research Center for Coal and Energy at West Virginia University. The panelists included Dr. C. Lowell Miller, Director of the Office of Sequestration, Hydrogen and Clean Coal Fuels in the Office of Fossil Energy of the Department of Energy, and Dr. Qingyun Sun, Associate Director for the U.S.-China Energy Center and Associate Professor at West Virginia University.

Speaker presentations from this briefing will be posted on the ASME Government Relations web site, <http://www.asme.org/NewsPublicPolicy/GovRelations/> and at www.researchcaucus.org in the near future. This briefing was videotaped and is available at http://www.asme.org/Communities/Technical/Energy/Public_Policy.cfm

BRIEFINGS COSPONSORED BY ASME

- On January 17, 2008, ASME Government Relations cosponsored a briefing organized by IEEE-USA on “New Nuclear Technology,” to highlight the next generation of nuclear technology. Congressman Rush Holt (D-NJ) and Congresswoman Judy Biggert (R-IL), Co-Chairs of the Research and Development Caucus, provided opening statements about the importance of nuclear power to the safety, security, and the environment of the United States. Speakers included John Goossen, Director of the Science and Technology Department at Westinghouse Electric Company, a member of IEEE- USA and ASME and Bryan Erler, owner of Erler Engineering, Ltd and Vice President- Elect of ASME’s Nuclear Codes and Standards.
- On December 12, 2007, ASME co-sponsored the Task Force for the Future of American Innovation Congressional briefing entitled, “America, We Have a Problem.” The Task Force is comprised of representatives from industry, academia, and nongovernmental organizations who support increased federal support for research in the physical sciences and engineering. Mr. Norm Augustine, Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Lockheed Martin Corporation, was the briefing’s primary speaker, discussing his recent report entitled “Is America Falling Off the Flat Earth?” This report highlights America’s competitiveness challenges and actions that have been taken to address concerns raised in the National Academies “Rising Above the Gathering Storm” report, which he chaired. Dr. Charles Vest, President of the National Academy of Engineering, served as the briefing moderator, while Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Lamar Alexander (R-TN) provided opening remarks.
- On November 8, 2007, ASME co-sponsored the Task Force for the Future of American Innovation Congressional briefing entitled, “Sputnik in a YouTube Age.” Concerned that the U.S. lacks a similar unifying event today, the Task Force sponsored a YouTube video contest that asked for videos depicting how federal funded research has resulted in scientific innovations that have changed our lives. The winning video by Adan Vielma, a junior communications major at Lewis and Clark College, was shown at the briefing, and can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuGBNNCwkfs>. Primary briefing speakers included two

former female astronauts: Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, first woman to perform a space walk and Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space.

TALLAHASSEE TOWN HALL MEETING

ASME Government Relations worked with the ASME Tallahassee Section to prepare invitation letters and draft a press release for their Town Hall Meeting (THM) that took place February 19, 2008 in Tallahassee, Florida entitled “Florida’s Energy Challenges: How do we measure up?” Government Relations contributed \$2000 towards the event. Staff also identified local media outlets to be notified for the event as well as contacted elected officials associated with both the event and the state of Florida.

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS (SWE)

As SWE’s representative in Washington, ASME staff worked closely with SWE to identify and initiate the following activities:

- SWE co-sponsored the 2008 Congressional Visits Day (CVD) that was held on March 4-5, 2008. SWE Past President Peggy Layne, P.E., and SWE Title IX Lead, Cathy Pieronek, participated in Congressional visits, as well as met with NASA officials regarding the recently-conducted Title IX reviews at three universities. Staff attended the periodic CVD meetings to provide input on the event’s theme, as well as helped develop the leave behind materials.
- On March 12, 2008, staff attended the Women Policy, Inc. 2008 Congressional Gala where the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues Co-Chairs, Reps. Lois Capps (D-CA) and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), announced their priorities for the 2nd session of the 110th Congress. Women’s Policy, Inc. serves as a research arm of the Caucus. For the second year in the row, one of their “must pass” items is strengthening math and science education for girls, and the Caucus is slated to hold a Congressional briefing on the topic this summer.
- ASME represents SWE as the Planning Committee Chair of the House Diversity and Innovation (D&I) Caucus. We assisted in organizing a stakeholder listening meeting on February 28th and from comments gathered at the meeting, the House Diversity and Innovation (D&I) Caucus is developing a ten-point plan for diversity that it plans to release to House leadership in early summer. SWE and the other members of the Planning Committee have been providing comments on the draft as requested.
- ASME has been working with SWE to award their first ever “SWE President’s Award” to Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) for her leadership in introducing the Gender Bias Elimination Act of 2007. The award presentation will take place in early summer. The House Science and Technology (S&T) Research and Science Education Subcommittee plans to hold a hearing on a revised version of the Gender Bias bill on May 8, 2008. SWE has provided comments on the revised bill, as well as submitted potential hearing witnesses.
- On November 15, 2007, the House Education and Labor Committee passed H.R. 4137, the College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007. H.R. 4137, the second of two major higher education bills introduced this year, is a comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the primary federal law aimed at expanding college access for low- and middle-income students. The first piece of legislation, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, was signed into law in September. Included in this bill is a provision (p.477) to assess the feasibility and potential design of an inter-institution monitoring organization on gender and racial equity in campus faculty and administration, which was one of the recommendations of the National Academies report, *Beyond Bias Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science*

and Engineering. Representative Johnson spearheaded the insertion of this provision into H.R. 4137, with the support of SWE and AAUW.

- Staff attended the November and December National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE) meetings. Primary topics of discussion were the status of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act and No Child Left Behind in the House and the Senate, and the soon-to-be released NCWGE *Title IX at 35* report, of which SWE helped write the STEM chapter. Due to a problem with the original graphic designer, the printing of this report has been delayed, and the report has not yet been publicly released. NCWGE has secured a new graphic designer, and executive summaries of the Title IX at 35 report will be printed by early 2008. Then the report will be officially released at a Congressional briefing held in conjunction with the House Diversity and Innovation Caucus that is currently slated for January 23, 2008.
- On November 1, 2007, SWE President Michelle Tortolani participated in a panel session on the STEM workforce on Capitol Hill during the Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology (CPST)'s conference entitled, "Can We Compete? Trends in America's Scientific and Technical Workforce." Tortolani focused her presentation focused on the importance of diversity to the STEM workforce, and summarized SWE's public policy efforts related to Title IX's application to STEM fields, as well the overall STEM education issue.
- ASME staff continues to prepare a column for the monthly SWE e-newsletter on their public policy issues and activities, as well as contribute articles for the SWE magazine.

ASME
Position Statements Issued from July 2007-May 2008

PS08-14	4/25/08	R&D	ASME EPA Task Force Statement on EPA's FY 2009 Budget Request
PS08-13	4/15/08	C&S	ANSI/ SDO Letter to OSHA on updating national consensus standards
PS08-12	4/17/08	R&D	Aerospace Division position statement on FY09 budget request for NASA
PS08-11	4/9/08	Education	STEM Coalition Letter to Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members regarding the FY 2009 Commerce, Justice, and Science budget request
PS08-10	4/9/08	Education	STEM Coalition Letter to Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members regarding the FY 2009 Labor Health and Human Services and Education budget request (COMPETES Act referenced)
PS08-09	3/28/08	R&D	Position Statement on the FY 2009 Budget Request for the National Science Foundation (NSF) submitted by the ASME NSF Task Force (America COMPETES Act referenced)
PS08-08	3/24/08	R&D	Letter urging support for federal research investments at key agencies as stated in America COMPETES Act
PS08-07	3/24/08	Education	STEM Coalition Letter to Senate HELP Committee Chairman Kennedy and Ranking Member Enzi expressing support for several key STEM education policy priorities related to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) reauthorization (COMPETES Act referenced)
PS08-06	3/24/08	Education	STEM Coalition Letter to Senate HELP Committee Chairman Kennedy and Ranking Member Enzi urging them to make science a required component of the No Child Left Behind adequate yearly progress (AYP) measure (COMPETES Act referenced)
PS08-05	3/19/08	Energy	ASME Energy Committee Position Statement on the Dept of Energy's FY09 Budget Request
PS08-04	2/25/08	Energy	The ASME Energy Committee requests restoration of ITER funding as part of the FY08 emergency supplemental spending bill
PS08-03a	2/25/08	Professional Issues	Testimony for Licensure Provisions Relating to Engineers
PS08-03	2/25/08	Professional Issues	Licensure Provisions Relating to Engineers
PS08-02	2/12/08	Education	STEM Coalition Letter to House & Senate Education Committee Leadership regarding the upcoming House-Senate Higher Education Reauthorization conference (America COMPETES Act referenced)
PS08-01	1/30/08	Energy	Energy Sciences Coalition seeks emergency funding for vital U.S. scientific efforts, as supported in America COMPETES Act
PS07-36	12/11/07	R&D	Letter from ASME and IEEE-USA urging the Administration and Congress to complete the budget and appropriations process.
PS07-35	11/28/07	Energy	Letter from ASME Solid Waste Processing Division (SWPD) to members of Congress urging their support of Waste-to-Energy (WTE) technologies
PS07-34	11/6/07	Education	Coalition Letter to Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) thanking her for introducing H.R. 3514, Gender Bias Elimination Act of 2007 (Ctr. For Leadership and Diversity)
PS07-33	11/7/07	R&D	Letter from ASME DOD Task Force regarding support for Defense Research and Engineering (DDR&E)
PS07-32	11/2/07	C&S	Testimony to the House Committee on Small Business by Associate Executive Director of ASME Codes & Standards June Ling
PS07-31	10/24/07	C&S	Letter from SDOs to Energy Committee Chairmen regarding HR 3221
PS07-30	10/2/07	Education	Coalition letter urging the inclusion of science as a required component under the adequate yearly progress (AYP) portion of No Child Left Behind
PS07-29	9/6/07	Education	STEM Education Coalition Letter to Senate and House Leadership thanking them for their leadership in passing the America COMPETES Act
PS07-28	8/31/07	Education	ASME Center for Public Awareness Letter to National Science Board Chairman Beering regarding the NSB's New STEM Action Plan
PS07-27	8/14/07	R&D	DOD Task Force Statement Expressing Opposition to an Indirect Cost Cap on Basic Research
PS07-26	8/3/07	R&D	Letter from ASME President to Congressional Leaders thanking them for their efforts to pass the America COMPETES Act