

IEEE-USA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COUNCIL

Washington, DC

26 March 2010

Meeting Summary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jim Jefferies at 8:00 a.m.

The following individuals were noted as participating:

Members

Marc Apter (CIPC, GFC)
Jim Barbera (EPC)
Pete Eckstein (At-Large)
Keith Grzelak (IPC)
Jim Jefferies (VP, GR)
Tom Jepson (MTPC)
Hank Lindborg (CWFP)
Dan Lubar (CCP)
Luke Maki (At-Large)
Al Reinhart (GAC)
Mayer Sasson (EPC)
Marty Sokoloski (RDPC)
Barry Tilton (CTAP)

Staff Members

Chris Brantley
Russ Harrison
Chris McManes
Vin O'Neill
Deborah Rudolph
Bill Williams
Erica Wissolik

Guests

Emily Sopensky (IEEE-USA MAL)

2. STRATEGIC AND PLANNING DIRECTIONS FOR 2010

A. Introduction to QPD Planning Methodology

GRC received an overview on the quality policy deployment methodology (Attach. 2A1) and the following background documents: GR Strategic Operations/Goals (Attach. 2A2) and Strategic Discussion Questions (Attach. 2A3).

B. Review of 2010 Strategic and Public Policy Priorities

GRC received the IEEE-USA Mission, Strategic Goals and 2010 Strategic Focus (Attach. 3B1).

GRC updated and approved revised 2010 public policy priorities by consensus, adding a priority on job creation and a focus item on development of the energy workforce (Attach. 3B2).

GRC then engaged in a strategic discussion organized around the following themes/topics:

- What are the desired attributes of an effective IEEE-USA government relations program and how might we obtain them
- Issues related to implementation
- Keys to increasing effectiveness
- Emerging Issues

The discussion notes were captured for review and future action planning (Attach. 2B3).

C. Review of 2010 Action Plans

Each committee chair briefly presented their 2010 action plan and associated budget: Career & Workforce Policy (Attach. 2C1), Communications Policy (Attach. 2C2), Critical Infrastructure Protection (Attach. 2C3), Energy Policy (Attach. 2C4), Government Fellows (Attach. 2C5), Intellectual Property (Attach. 2C6), Medical Technology Policy (Attach. 2C7), R&D Policy (Attach. 2C8) and Transportation & Aerospace Policy (Attach. 2C9). It was noted that plans are living documents, subject to change as opportunities arise and/or the legislative/policy environment changes.

D. Emerging Issues/Challenges

All GRC committee chairs were asked to consider how their committee activities could support the new priority on technology-related job creation.

E. Crosscutting Issues

GRC identified several issues as having significant interest and overlap across multiple committees, including cybersecurity, privacy, broadband, jobs creation/workforce issues, etc. It was agreed that early communications and coordination through GRC was important and that it was the Vice President's role to address any frictions or conflicts that might emerge as a result of these cross-cutting issues.

F. 2011 GR Budget

Vice President Jefferies reported that GR had been asked to find \$25.1K in new revenue and/or expense reductions to help IEEE-USA achieve a balanced 2011 budget proposal (Attach. 2F1 and 2F2). To reach that target, he indicated plans to reduce committee budgets to approximately 75% of current funding, cut the Legislative Initiative Fund by \$5K, put a \$5K surplus revenue target on the proposed 2011 STEM Workshop, and move approximately \$20K into a discretionary account for support of high priority committee activities based on requests submitted during the budget year. Four new funding proposals were either deferred due to uncertainties (Attach. 2F3 and 2F6) or referred for future consideration as discretionary GRC or Legislative Initiative funding proposals (Attach. 2F4 and 2F5). GRC indicated support for this plan without objection.

G. GR Dashboard

GRC reviewed the current GR dashboard (Attach. 2G), noting that the position statement dashboard was being revised. Staff were asked to explore additional data metrics related to web traffic, including use of key subordinate web resources (e.g. position statements) and duration of visits. As the basis for a possible satisfaction metric(s), staff were also to explore options for obtaining member feedback on selected topics/issues.

3. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation of Candidates for National Science Foundation Director

In response to the Board's request for a recommendation on nomination(s) for the soon-to-be-vacated position of Director for the National Science Foundation (Attach. 3A) and in light of recent news that Dr. Subra Suresh, Dean of Engineering at MIT, would be tapped by the White House for this appointment, GRC agreed to recommend that IEEE-USA endorse the nomination and support the confirmation of Dr. Suresh if he is nominated.

B. Endorsement of Proposed IEEE-USA Position Statement on "Tax Incentives for Continuing Education"

GRC revised references to engineers as "scientific and technical professionals" and endorsed for Board approval a proposed IEEE-USA position statement on "Tax Incentives for Continuing Education" (Attach. 3B).

C. Endorsement of Proposed IEEE-USA Position Statement on "The L-1 Visa for Intra-Company Transfers"

GRC endorsed for Board approval a proposed IEEE-USA position statement on "The L-1 Visa for Intra-Company Transfers" (Attach. 3C).

D. Endorsement of Proposed IEEE-USA Position Statement on "Visa Processing"

GRC endorsed for Board approval a proposed IEEE-USA position statement on "Visa Processing" (Attach. 3D).

E. Endorsement of Proposed IEEE-USA Position Statement on "Phased Retirement"

GRC endorsed for Board approval a proposed IEEE-USA position statement on "Phased Retirement" (Attach. 3E).

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business and after noting that the GRC would meet by call of the Vice President as pending business dictates by teleconference on dates to be determined, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.