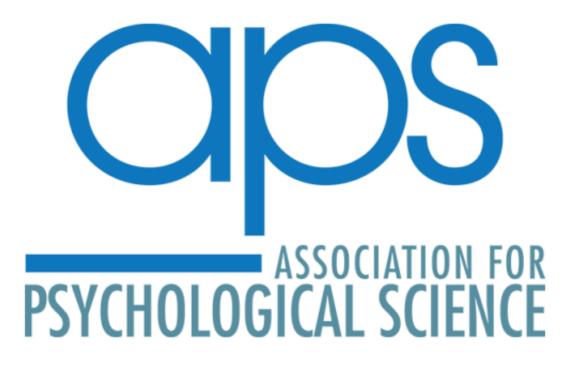
Message from the APS Board of Directors

December 23, 2019



On Friday, December 13, 2019, Research!America confirmed to the broader scientific community that the US White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) would soon issue an Executive Order (EO) requiring open access immediately for all scientific publications resulting from research supported by US federal grants. Such an immediate change would inject chaos into the current means of disseminating research findings and potentially cause serious financial challenges for many scientific societies.

Over the ensuing weekend, two public letters were drafted to the US presidential administration and other American politicians. <u>One letter</u> was led by the American Chemical Society (which focused on the impact of the EO on scientific societies) and <u>the other letter</u> was led by the Association of American Publishers (that focused on the economic impact of the EO). The goal was to insist that the US administration reconsider any impulsive action so journals and societies could evaluate and adapt to the proposed change in an orderly way. There was no opportunity for APS to offer edits.

Moving quickly, the APSExecutive Director sent an email on Monday, December 16 to the APS President, Past-President and President-Elect, indicating APS's intent to sign theletters. All three

approved the signatures, and the letters were signed thatsame day. APS, along with dozens of other scientific groups, signed both letters. While we were uncomfortable with some of the wording in the letter led by the Association f American Publishers, we felt that protecting APS from the potential fiscalupheaval posed by the EO was the best way to fulfil our <u>legalresponsibility</u> to the health of the organization.

Given the short time frame, APS did not consult the Board, its Publications Committee, nor its Editors nor EditorialBoards before signing the letters. It has become painfully salient, inretrospect, that we should have consulted others, particularly after hearing concernsfrom some members of APS. For that, the President, Past-President, andPresident-Elect sincerely apologize. It would have been ideal to have athorough discussion involving the Board, the Editors, and the Publications Committee, as well as an opportunity for comment from the wider APS membership, prior tosigning. We take this lesson to heart moving forward.

The APS Board is engaged inongoing discussions with the Publications Committee and Editors regarding thebest ways to move forward. As always, we also want to hear from the APSmembership at large and encourage everyone's participation in solving thechallenges we face as a scientific community. As the situation with the pendingEO evolves, we encourage all voices to be heard. Please consider sharing yourinsights, suggestions, and concerns via apsboard@psychologicalscience.org.

We want to emphasize that APSis strongly committed to open and transparent scientific practices, includingopen access, as well as to a global view of psychological science. Infact, two weeks ago, on December 6–7, 2019, the APS Board unanimouslyvoted to strike a working committee to advance open and transparent science; the committee's charge will include enhancing open access, in dialogue with thePublications Committee and other interested parties. At the same meeting, theBoard unanimously voted to reconstitute an internationalization committee toextend the society's activities beyond North America and western Europe. Eachcommittee will have a broad charge, and the Presidential Column in the Februaryissue of the *Observer* will providemore information.