

Public Affairs Committee Annual Report

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This year the public affairs committee was fairly quiet, but I focused on raising awareness of opportunities to advocate for policy issues of central importance to the ACS. The committee has 35 section members who signed up to receive emails about public affairs, plus a few of the ACS section leadership. I sent out information twice to this group:

- Advocating against taxation of graduate student tuition waivers in the initial House tax bill (November 2017)
- Advocating for the same issue, in the House version prior to resolution with the Senate (December 2017)

Anecdotally, for each email announcement sent, at least one member wrote back to me to report that they responded by writing to their representative. That's great!

Future plans: Next year I will continue to send emails as vital policy issues arise, each time ensuring that they align with the priorities of the national ACS public affairs group. I also hope to organize one event centered on raising awareness of a policy issue. Anyone who is interested in contributing time to this committee to make it more active is welcome!