

The AAPT Visioning Challenge – Governance Planning Retreat (meeting-suggested edits)

MISSION. By fostering effective teaching at all levels, AAPT's commitment is to *advance physics through education in service of our members and the public good*.

VISION. Recognizing the value of physics learning in advancing the greater good, AAPT strives to become *the leading voice and driving force in physics education*, serving physics educators as their leading resource and advocate.

Setting aside concerns for financial viability, logistical constraints, and political limitation, consider these starting premises as a context for envisioning an ideal AAPT structure:

1. Membership in AAPT should be a natural expectation for every physics educator as an element of his/her professional responsibility. Membership should be convenient, beneficial, valuable, affordable, and seen as prestigious.
2. AAPT is a community of members subscribing to the same organizational vision and committed to a common organizational mission.
3. AAPT fulfills its mission through the balance of global and local action and activities – There is a central vision that involves both global and local action.
4. The AAPT name and presence give weight and prestige to its programs and activities at the local level. In turn, local activities extend the reach and effectiveness of the Association.
5. AAPT's global actions and activities include:
 - publishing journals and magazines
 - establishing web resources and communication
 - organizing meetings
 - offering programs, and conferences
 - developing resource materials
 - providing economy of scale for member services
 - assuring a synergy among the Association's various programs
 - providing coordination of a large network of members
 - ensuring collaboration and partnership with sister societies
 - supporting and participating in public policy efforts.
6. Consistent with AAPT's perspective and mission, AAPT carries out its local activities through its local networks of members, which in turn influence/drive the AAPT mission and goals. AAPT's local action and activities include:
 - offering meetings and workshops
 - assisting with local advocacy efforts
 - providing direct interaction with K-12 schools, two-year colleges, colleges, universities, laboratories, industry and funding agencies
 - supporting and collaborating in local outreach programs
 - networking with physics educators and students
 - partnering with local science teaching organizations
 - supporting and participating in public policy efforts.
7. Toward advancing its mission, AAPT needs the involvement of, and supports participation by, groups of members who have specialized interests and expertise within the context of the teaching and learning of physics.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT DURING DISCUSSIONS

- Every participant is expected to present ideas, perspectives, analyses and opinions in a polite and considerate fashion.
- Every participant is expected to be willing to listen to, and be respectful of, others' points of view—no one has all the answers.
- Every participant is encouraged to participate.
- During brainstorming sessions, all relevant ideas are welcome and appreciated.
- Consensus on specifics is not required, **but** consensus on “big ideas” is important.
- **Visioning involves being open to new perspectives** (to suspend disbelief, to attend to assumptions and beliefs).