



Communications Policy Task Force

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SAC Meeting
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Introduction

- Task force was created following concerns raised about the current communications/media policy
 - <https://directorate-docdb.fnal.gov/cgi-bin/RetrieveFile?docid=33>
- Task force membership
 - Dan Hooper
 - Bo Jayatilaka
 - Don Lincoln
 - Gordan Krnjaic
 - Aria Soha
 - Tammy Walton

Process

- Task force met with
 - Current and former communications office personnel (including current head)
 - DOE representation (Fermi site office personnel)
 - Scientists/staff who have been affected by the policy
- Task force reviewed
 - Current Fermilab communications policy
 - Comms policies of other national labs
- Considered constraints on communications policies
 - Formal DOE rules/restrictions
 - DOE communications practice
 - Laboratory/FRA restrictions

Preliminary findings/conclusions

- Current policy starts from the default of comms office notification before **any** media interaction
 - Further allows for interpretation of any public interaction falling under policy
- “Enforcement” of policy is uneven
 - Numerous scientists have stated they have no intention of following policy
 - Creates **inequity** from more privileged staff being comfortable selectively/not following policy
- Lack of prior notification to DOE creates more problems for comms office
 - Paradoxically, the more restrictive policy makes it more likely that media interactions happen without notification
 - More permissive policy will encourage cooperation with comms and make their job easier
- Restrictive policy puts laboratory at a **competitive disadvantage** for talent

Next steps

- Formal report with findings and recommendations
 - To submit to SAC and DIR
 - Require response either in updates to policy or justifications for why recommendations can't be implemented within a specified timeframe
- Offer to assist Comms office with policy updates/revisions
- Plan to present findings at a future all-scientists meeting (summer?)