

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
May 11–13, 2016
Chicago, Illinois**

**Consent Agenda: Revise Description of
Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy
(Prepared by Executive Director Nancy Beaumont)**

BACKGROUND

The Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy evolved from the Government Affairs Working Group as the SAA Council developed and refined Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan and identified public policy as the focus of the group's work. CAPP's purpose is as follows:

The Committee's purpose is to provide strategic information and advice to the SAA Council to enhance SAA's capacity to address public policy issues and concerns affecting archivists, archives, the archival profession, and its stakeholders. The Committee recommends to the SAA Council the public policy priorities on which SAA should focus its attention and resources, within the context of the Society's mission and strategic plan. Although the Committee's purview is broad, its overarching priorities are issues related to the preservation of and access to records of enduring value that affect archivists, archival institutions, and users of the archival record.

View the full description of CAPP [here](#).

DISCUSSION

Although in the past certain of us have been careful to draw distinctions between and among various aspects of advocacy and public awareness, it became clear during the website redesign process that the "best" term to encompass public policy, public awareness, and advocacy efforts within archival institutions is, well, "advocacy."

It no longer seems useful or meaningful to link "advocacy" only to public policy and/or legislative or regulatory matters. To eliminate confusion and fully embrace SAA's broader use of the term "advocacy," it is a simple matter to change the name of the Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy to the Committee on Public Policy.

Other aspects of the committee's description need not be revised.

CAPP Chair Tanya Zanish-Belcher and Vice Chair Dennis Roman Riley agree with the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the name of the Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy be changed to the Committee on Public Policy.

Support Statement: The name change acknowledges the broader span of the term “advocacy” as SAA has come to use it to encompass public policy, public awareness, advocacy within archival institutions and with resource allocators, and advocating for the diversity of the archival record.

Fiscal Impact: None.