

GSA Acquisition Policy Federal Advisory Committee (GAP FAC) Policy & Practice Subcommittee Meeting

January 5, 2023

The General Services Administration (GSA) Acquisition Policy Federal Advisory Policy & Practice Subcommittee (PPS) convened for its third public meeting at 3:00 PM on January 5, 2023, virtually via Zoom, with Steven Schooner, Chair, and Luke Bassis, Co-Chair, presiding.

In accordance with FACA, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App 2, the meeting was open to the public from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM EST

Subcommittee Members Present:

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| Steven Schooner, Chairperson | <i>George Washington University</i> |
| Luke Bassis, Co-Chair | <i>Port Authority of New York and New Jersey</i> |
| Richard Beutel | <i>George Mason University</i> |
| Antonio Doss | <i>US Small Business Administration</i> |
| Mark Hayden | <i>State of New Mexico</i> |
| Mamie Mallory | <i>Mallory & Associates</i> |
| Jennie Romer | <i>Environmental Protection Agency</i> |
| Nigel Stephens | <i>US Black Chamber of Commerce</i> |
| Anish Tilak | <i>Rocky Mountain Institute</i> |
| Leslie Cordes | <i>Ceres</i> |
| Amlan Mukherjee | <i>Michigan Technological University</i> |
| Dr. Kimberly White | <i>American Chemistry Council</i> |
| Dr. David Wagger | <i>Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries</i> |

Absent: Mark Hayden and Stacy Smedly

Guest Speakers & Presenters: n/a

GSA Staff Present:

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| Boris Arratia | <i>Designated Federal Officer (DFO)</i> |
| Stephanie Hardison | <i>Deputy Designated Federal Officer (DDFO)</i> |
| David Cochennic | <i>GAP FAC Support Team</i> |
| Skylar Holloway | <i>GAP FAC Support Team</i> |
| Jill Pesti | <i>Closed Captioner</i> |
| Daniel Swartz | <i>ASL Interpreters</i> |

CALL TO ORDER

Stephanie Hardison, Designated Deputy Federal Officer(DDFO), opened the public meeting by welcoming the group before reminding the public that there would be time for comments and statements at the end of the meeting. She then performed a roll call to confirm attendance and a quorum. After the quorum was met, she turned the meeting over to the Co-Chair, Luke Bassis.

INTRODUCTIONS & REMARKS

Co-Chairperson Luke Bassis welcomed the committee and is looking forward to the work that needs to be completed. He hopes to finalize the mission statement today and move into the key prioritization discussion.

Chairperson Steve Schooner mentioned there is lots of work to be done and was excited to see Jeff Koses on the call. Some of Jeff's interjections earlier in the week were helpful in terms of what is possible for the group and what they should focus on.

Co-Chair Luke Bassis reviewed the agenda with the group and then moved into the mission statement discussion.

MISSION & KEY PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

The group has three mission statement options to review, with an option to create a fourth statement based on discussion. Luke went around to each subcommittee member to hear their thoughts.

Dr. Kimberly Wise-White liked options 2 & 3 and the addition for accelerating sustainable goods and services; however, she was caught off by wanting to accelerate demand.

Richard Beutel explained that creating demand would create a more enduring framework to achieve the subcommittee's goals. The goods and services that will provide the solutions we are looking for will come from the private sector. We want to create market incentives in both innovate and scale with respect to those items and service offerings that achieve our stated goal. That was the rationale for adding market incentives in specific terms of demand.

Dr. White mentioned that the subcommittee doesn't define goods & services. Would we need to have something for what that means later?

Dr. Amlan Mukherjee likes mission statement 2 because it has measurable impacts. He likes that demand is included because industries respond to demand.

Anish Tilak prefers option 3; however, he thinks too much verbiage might be included. The word sustainable is too repetitive.

Jennie Romer agreed that option 3 was her favorite and suggested reducing verbiage.

The group agreed to remove the word “sustainable” before “goods and services.”

Leslie Cordes also likes mission statement 3 and feels option 2 is more of an outcome for the group.

Mamie Mallory likes option 3 but isn't grasping “accelerate demand.” Accelerating demand from the GSA aspect isn't coming from the contractor.

Jeff Koses thinks the group is circling key ideas; however, there hasn't been any mention of making it easier to buy sustainable goods and services. Maybe that's what accelerating demand means, but what would it mean if we had the idea of making it an easier part of the mission statement?

Chairperson Steve Schooner wants the private sector to offer more sustainable, climate-friendly goods and services. We want the procurement holder to be crafting specification statements to drive that. Making it easier might raise the dominant means of making this happen. In the acquisition workforce subcommittee one of the issues we come back to is that it's one thing to put in legislation and another in regulations. It's another to create policy and training. We will get dramatic change when we make it a simple, standard form or easy pull-down option. The demand side issue is also important.

Nigel Stephens likes the word “accelerate demand.” The federal government is the biggest purchaser of goods, and that services would drive the commercial side and private sector growth and demand that we're looking for. The ease of accessibility to sustainable goods and services through GSA is inherent in that driving demand. You can't drive demand if it's difficult to access sustainable products.

Dr. David Waggoner mentioned that it seems that we are trying to accelerate the economy-wide adoption of goods and services, even if it's far reaching. A counter-example is that just because the private sector provides something doesn't mean there is a demand for it.

After continuing the discussion, the group rallied around option 3; however, it would need further tweaking. New concepts were also introduced, simplifying the acquisition process/procedures/streamline and strengthening the industrial base. The discussion continued around the new concepts and whether to include them in the mission statement.

At the end of the discussion, Luke asked for volunteers to reword the mission statement to include the concepts in the mission statement. Kimberly Wise White, Nigel Stephens, and Amlan Mukherjee will work on revising the mission statement.

Co- Chairperson Luke Bassis then moved the conversation to the key priorities. The group worked to refine which priorities would be the most impactful, along with the level of effort that would be required. The group discussed priorities 8, 10, 13, 14, and 17 since most of those were classified as low-hanging fruit. Because priority 16 supported priorities 13, 8, and 17, it was also moved into the low-hanging fruit category. Priority 15 was also grouped near priority 16 since the two were similar.

After deciding on the low-hanging fruit priorities, the group will turn the other priorities into cohesive concepts with high priority and high effort.

Co-Chairperson Luke Bassis turned the conversation back to Kimberly Wise White on a suggested mission statement. After a reminder from Jeff that the group's focus should be on GSA policies and practice and doing wordsmithing, the final mission statement was created.

Proposed statement: Recommend actionable changes to GSA procurement policies and practices that encourage innovation and streamline the acquisition process to accelerate the demand and utilization of goods and services to achieve measurable progress on climate and sustainability goals.

Chairperson Steve Schooner decided this would be a working draft, and if there were any disputes, they would be heard in the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Co-Chairperson Luke Bassis opened the floor up for public comment.

Jeff Koses thanked the subcommittee for their hard work and thoughts that are going into this. He feels the mission statement and priorities created will allow them to evaluate and develop a clear set of initiatives for GSA. GSA has received many inputs on multiple policies and is looking forward to hearing what the group recommends.

CLOSING REMARKS

Chairperson Steve Schooner closed the meeting by thanking Luke Bassis for taking the lead on the discussion today and appreciated the engagement from everyone on the subcommittee. Steve turned the meeting over to Stephanie Hardison.


ADJOURNMENT

Stephanie Hardison, DDFO concluded the meeting and reminded the group that the next virtual Policy & Practice subcommittee meeting would be held on January 19th from 3 PM – 5 PM EST. She reminded the public that any written comments could be submitted through regulations.gov.

Boris Arratia, DFO reminded everyone of the full committee meeting on January 12th before handing it back to Stephanie.

She adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM EST.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

DocuSigned by:

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2/1/2024

Luke Bassis

Co-Chairperson

GAP FAC Policy & Practice Subcommittee

Former Chair, Steven Schooner was succeeded by Luke Bassis on September 28, 2023.