Section One: Computer Graphics Public Policy Issues

Section Two: Intellectual Property

The availability of graphics, and other works, in digital format has resulted in a call from some parties for increased protection of such intellectual property. This has led to a number of proposed and implemented changes to intellectual property law such as through international treaties and the recently enacted (in the US) Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). Others have said that the traditional copyright statutes should apply to digital information with little change. (Rated from 1 (strengthen laws) to 5 (relax laws):)

Section Three: Broadband Internet Services

Cable modem, wireless and other broadband Internet services should be defined as common carrier services (such as telephone services) and similarly regulated by government, including open access and some level of pricing control.

Digital subscriber line services should be completely deregulated, including pricing.

To expand residential broadband Internet access, the building of new, wired networks (competitive with existing telephone and cable television lines) should be encouraged.

Section Four: Digital Copy Protection

Digital technologies such as DVD are becoming available for the distribution of still and of moving images in digital format. Some copyright holders want to see strong restrictions on making copies of such materials built into the equipment. Others say these strong restrictions will limit interest of the public in such equipment. (Rated from 1 (limit adoption) to 5 (hasten adoption):)

Section Five: ACM and SIGGRAPH Public Policy Activities

Inform members via articles in member publications such as Computer Graphics and CACM.
Inform members via opt-in email newsletters.
Inform members of the general public regarding the technical implications of policy alternatives by statements in the popular press and general interest magazines.
Inform policy makers regarding the technical implications of policy alternatives by writing white papers and by direct contact.
Take positions on issues on behalf of the organization.
Commit to the significant spending (approaching $1M annually) required to mount an effective public policy activity.
Fund spending on public policy activities by increasing dues for all members.
Fund spending on public policy activities by increasing dues for members in the affected geographic areas.
Fund spending on public policy activities by using voluntary member contributions.
Fund spending on public policy activities by successfully seeking grants from foundations and/or government agencies.
Fund spending on public policy activities by decreasing spending in other areas such as publications or member services.