

**Draft prepared December 1, 2004 by V. Chan**

**Minutes of 2004 Fall DPP Executive Committee Meeting**

Westin Savannah Harbor Hotel, Savannah, Georgia  
Sunday, November 14, 2004

**Members Present:** Christina Back, Cris Barnes, Herb Berk, Amitava Bhattacharjee, Vincent Chan, Bruce Cohen, Jill Dahlburg, Melissa Douglas, Jim Drake, David Hammer, Bill Heidbrink, Mike Mauel, David Newman, Mike Zarnstorff

**Members Absent:** Cliff Surko

**Guests:** Steve Allen, Donna Baudrau, Lee Berry, Ray Fonck, Peter Gary, Gail Glendinning, Martin Greenwald, John Kline, Mark Koepeke, Rick Lee, Fred Skiff, Nermin Uckan, John Willis

**DPP Administrator:** Saralyn Stewart

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Dave Hammer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Secretary-Treasurer's Report (Chan)**

Motion (Chan/ Mauel): Move that the Spring 2004 DPP ExCom Meeting minutes be approved.

Action: Passed subject to revisions suggested by Vincent Chan and Saralyn Stewart.

As of September 30, 2004, DPP has net assets of \$492,291. Revenues include, besides DPP meeting revenue, membership revenue of \$12,600 and allocated investment income of \$22,850.

The Plasma Dissertation Award is endowed at \$54,776 and the Plasma Excellence Award at \$142,790.

For the Savannah meeting DPP paid \$38k to the Westin Hotel to reduced the room rate for attendees. A decision was made not to provide wireless access at the convention center because of the high costs. Instead more Internet hub lines were provided. For future meetings, it is important to make sure the meeting centers are wireless-ready.

DPP now has a "paid" position for the division administrator. A contract has been signed between DPP and Saralyn Stewart, to be renewed on an annual basis.

As of October 4, 2004, DPP has 2,436 members, which is 5.75% of the total APS membership.

**Chair's Report and Review of Action Items (Hammer)**

Dave Hammer announced the 2004 DPP election results.

Vincent Chan (GA) is the new vice chair elect, term ends 11/2008. Steve Allen (LLNL) is the new secretary-treasurer, term ends 11/2007, and Ray Fonck, Martin Greenwald, and Fred Skiff are the new executive committee members, terms end 11/2007. This was the first year the electronic ballot was switched from the DPP website to the APS site. Participation increased from 25% last year to 36%, which is a significant jump according to the ballot history.

Jill Dahlburg reported that the newly formed NRC panel to determine defense related science and technology recommendations was strongly focused on defense issues rather than general science, hence further action to influence the panel on support for general science would not be effective.

Visa restrictions for sensitive country scientists to attend U.S. meetings or collaborate with U.S. research institutions remains a problem despite APS President Helen Quinn's statement that the situation has improved, and this is affecting U.S. plasma physics community's ability to host international meetings.

Action Item: Dave Hammer and Jim Drake will determine to whom at APS to send a letter of concern regarding the visa problem.

A letter was sent to Secretary Abraham inviting him to attend the education and outreach activities in Savannah, which was declined.

Action Item: Jill Dahlburg will send an invitation to the Energy Secretary again next summer in coordination with OFES with copy to the Director of Science.

A question was raised whether DPP should write a letter in support of LANL scientists, whose research is affected by recent laboratory security actions. An informal poll of the ExCom indicated no support for immediate action.

Dave Hammer pointed out an opportunity for new DPP officers to reach out to Congress when they are attending the APS units convocation. This can be arranged through APS or some of the larger fusion institutions.

Suggestions of speakers for next year's EPS should be sent to Dave Hammer and Jill Dahlburg.

Following the revised by-laws, a new procedure has been put in place for the selection of the program committee, in which the upcoming year's program chair prepares a slate of program committee members and emails it to the ExCom for approval before current year's DPP meeting. The ExCom should pay special attention to under-representation in both the composition of the committee and topical areas.

#### **Councilor's Report (Drake)**

The APS council will meet after the DPP annual meeting. Jim Drake will submit a written council report after Council Meets.

#### **Committee Reports**

Melissa Douglas reported for the fellowship committee. The number of nominations declined from 60 (2003) and 47 (2002) to 35 in 2004. There is a general sense that it is useful for the fellowship chair to pass his/her experience/recommendations to the next chair.

Ron Parker submitted a written summary report for the Excellence in Plasma Physics Award committee. The recipient is the team of Frank Cheng, Liu Chen, Bill Heidbrink, Ted Strait, and King-Lap Wong, "For the theoretical and experimental identification of toroidicity induced Alfvén eigenmodes."

Lee Berry reported for the Coalition for Plasma Science. The CPS is proceeding with the implementation of a plasma science prize at the Intel Science Competition and is soliciting help from DPP to provide judges. Jill Dahlburg has agreed to work with CPS on this. CPS is also recruiting new volunteers to help support its other activities.

Dr. Valery Godyak has decided to conclude his service as DPP Member to IUPAP Commission 16 at the end of his 3-year IUPAP Commission 16 appointment which coincides with the end of the October 2004 IUPAP General Assembly. Mark Koepke has agreed to move from IUPAP C-16 Associate Member to IUPAP C-16 Member, and replace Dr. Godyak as DPP Member to IUPAP Commission 16. Mark will seek IUPAP approval for a DPP Member to become an IUPAP C-16 associate member in the future, with the intention for the associate member to succeed Mark as full member after Mark's two consecutive 3-year term appointments have concluded. Mark is in discussion with Judy Franz, IUPAP Secretary General, to obtain travel funds to attend the IUPAP World Conference on Physics and Sustainable Development, Durban, South Africa, October 31 to November 2, 2005.

Mark requests that the DPP ExCom consider writing a letter of endorsement for him, as the "DPP Member to IUPAP", to include with his request for travel funds to any IUPAP meetings during his terms as IUPAP C-16 Member, especially IUPAP meetings that are not coincident with a research-oriented plasma physics conference.

Rich Hawryluk acted as the temporary chair of the Public Information Committee in the absence of Bill Dorland, and organized the highlights and press releases for this meeting with some help from James Riordan, APS Media Specialist.

Motion: (Dahlburg/Newman) Move that the Public Information Committee should have a chair and a co-chair to share the responsibilities of organizing press releases for the Fall DPP meeting and the April APS meeting.

Action: Not passed (yes 6, no 6)

The general sense of the ExCom is to focus on the press releases for the Fall DPP meeting. A question was raised whether there was evidence that the press releases actually appeared in newspapers; if not, the question was raised: How could DPP make that happen?

Martha Redi's report disclosed that none of the DPP nominations made it to the APS committees. This is a difficult process but we should keep trying. She recognized the need to build up the name recognition of the DPP candidates to people in other fields.

John Kline reported a plan to prepare a survey to young scientists to find out the special interests that are important to them.

Gail Glendinning updated the list of women in DPP, with the help of Trish Lattieri in APS Membership, and learned the percentage of women physicists in DPP is now 7%, an increase from about 5%. Women plasma physicists in faculty positions are underrepresented. The general opinion of the WIPP committee is no changes are needed for the Monday night reception.

Action Item: Glendinning will provide the DPP secretary-treasurer a rough head count of the number of attendees for the WIPP reception at this meeting.

Cris Barnes proposed that the DPP should do more on career development training, including organizing a workshop on resume preparation and organizing a student lunch with the experts.

Action Item: Barnes will form a subcommittee to come back with a proposal at the Spring ExCom meeting on how to expand DPP's career development activities.

#### **Education and Outreach (Lee)**

Student posters have increased from last year to 55 at this meeting. DPP for the first time provided \$3k to pay for substitute teachers. Half of the teachers would not be able to attend the Teachers Day Workshop without this assistance.

David Newman has prepared a list of distinguished lecturers for the next two years and welcomes recommendations and suggestions from the ExCom.

Motion: (Barnes/Mauel) Move to approve the list of five distinguished speakers to be available for the next academic year, and for Dave Newman and his committee to develop a list of new speakers to be discussed at the Spring ExCom meeting.

Action: Passed unanimously.

Action: Dahlburg/Lee will establish process for thanking the volunteer speakers.

The new APS Education Director is Ted Hodapp.

Action Item: The secretary-treasurer will send Rick Lee a summary of the expenses for Teachers Day/Expo after the meeting.

#### **Annual Meeting Contracts and Future Meeting Sites (Baudrau)**

The attendees pre-registration number is 1244, and 377 banquet tickets were sold through pre-registration.

All hotels were sold out except for the Hyatt, and APS will negotiate with Hyatt to remove the penalty. The companion tours were also selling well.

The meetings department is working with the Adams Mark Hotel in Denver to reduce the room block from 1,100 to 900 for peak days, of which 25% will be at government rate and the rest at 125% of the government rate.

All future sites should have wireless available. Martin Greenwald suggested that DPP should think about providing Internet lines for poster session in the future. David Hammer requested a lower room block at each contracted hotel in the future.

#### **DPP/APS Meetings (Dahlburg/Douglas)**

Jim Drake reported the plan to have the Sherwood Theory Conference co-locate with the APS April Meeting in 2006 in Dallas. He will work closely with the DPP program chair to put together an astrophysical plasma session to go along with the Sherwood program. The registration fees will be collected by APS, out of which the APS will give back to DPP a certain amount according to a formula. OFES has agreed to contribute a small amount to Sherwood for use at its discretion to enhance the program.

Motion: (Berk/Heidbrink) Move for current DPP chair to appoint a person to contact other plasma physics groups to solicit like-minded physicists to participate in the APS 2006 April Meeting.

Action: Passed (yes 8, abstained 5)

Melissa Douglas reported that for the 2005 APS April Meeting, APS has decided to reduce the number of talks for each invited oral session to three. The April program committee did not accept a proposed plasma talk for a plenary session.

Jill Dahlburg reported that for this meeting the ratio of accepted invited/review/tutorial talks to nominations is about 1:4. There were five mini-conferences. New features for this meeting were "toroidal" pastry for the Rosenbluth session; a new DPP chronicle handed out at the meeting, and a digital camera door prize for attendees who were at the meeting Sunday through Friday noon.

Melissa Douglas discussed the DPP 2005 program committee and her effort to bring in new members who have not served in the past six years. She presented some ideas for mini-conferences and would like to bring speakers from other fields to talk to our community for the 2005 World Year of Physics.

#### **DPP Prizes**

Mike Mauel briefed the new ExCom members on the history of the proposal to rename the Excellence in Plasma Physics Award to the John Dawson Excellence in Plasma Physics Award. UCLA and the Dawson family will co-sponsor the award with DPP. Since the Award is presently fully endowed, the proposal is to transfer approximately \$80k of the endowment fund to the Maxwell Prize, and UCLA will work with APS to raise another \$50k to again fully endow the Dawson Award. The \$80k together with the \$5k/year sponsorship of the Maxwell Prize by General Atomics will allow the DPP to raise the Maxwell Prize monetary award to \$10k. DPP will wait for UCLA to fully raise its committed amount before applying for APS approval. General Atomics has agreed to continue the sponsorship of the Maxwell Prize and once the \$80k is transferred from the Excellence Award, GA and DPP will jointly sponsor the Maxwell Prize.

Herb Berk report for the Nicholson Medal committee. Starting next year, the Medal will be awarded solely for the mentorship of students, since a new APS award, the Sakharov Award has been established for human rights. The new chair of the committee is George Knorr, University of Iowa, who will be responsible for planning fundraising activities. The University of Iowa will pay for the expenses of this year's award. Dave Hammer reminded the ExCom that via email the ExCom has voted to accept APS's proposal to have a DPP voting member on the committee for the first three years, and an ex-officio DPP

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non-voting member for the next five years. Bob Melino (U. of Iowa) has agreed to serve for three years instead of the usual two years. He will have to be reappointed by the DPP chair for the third year.

Motion: (Barnes/Zarnstorff) Move that at each semi-annual ExCom meeting, the secretary-treasurer will provide written minutes of all email motions that were voted on since the annual meeting.

Action: Passed unanimously

### **Other Reports and Business**

John Willis gave a status report of the OFES budget situation and results of several proposal solicitations including two new fusion science centers being established at U. of Maryland and U. of Rochester. Jeff Friedberg has agreed to be the Chair of a new Committee of Visitors to review the competitive review process for innovative confinement concepts, and Steve Cowley will chair an NRC panel to review the status of plasma science. John pointed out there is DOE funding available to fund experiments in states where there are not a lot of existing activities. State buy-in or collaborative effort is required.

Cris Barnes and John Kline presented their thoughts on codes of ethics based on their experience at LANL. The sense of the ExCom in this discussion is the APS should take the lead in addressing the ethics in science issue, with DPP playing a supporting role.

Action Item: Dave Hammer suggested a continuing effort by a small committee to look into this issue and come back with suggestions to DPP. This committee should make sure the suggestions are in line and coordinated with the APS code of ethics. The committee members are Cris Barnes, John Kline, Peter Gary, and a university person.

Dave Hammer requested the ExCom to determine with Saralyn Stewart the answers to the following:

- Whether the present job description for the DPP administrator matches the job requirements?
- Whether there should be additional modification to match DPP needs?
- Whether the currently assigned fractional FTE's is appropriate to carry out the tasks?

Saralyn responded that she is willing to work 50% of full time equivalent.

Motion; (Newman/Dahlburg) Move to form a committee of four consisting of two former committee members and two new committee members, to look into these questions and come back with suggested revisions if needed to the ExCom.

Action: Passed unanimously

### **Next ExCom Meeting**

Dave Hammer thanked the outgoing committee members Mike Zarnstorff, Bruce Cohen and Cliff Surko, and the outgoing past-chair Mike Mauel and secretary-treasurer Vincent Chan.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2005 at the Marriott Waterside Hotel, Tampa, Florida.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Vincent Chan  
DPP Secretary-Treasurer