

Minutes of the 2008 Fall Executive Committee Meeting
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dallas, Texas
Sunday, November 16, 2008

Members and Officers Present: Tom Antonsen, Amitava Bhattacharjee, Troy Carter, Vincent Chan, Ron Cohen, Dan Dubin, David Hammer, Bill Heidbrink, Ian Hutchinson, Mark Kushner, David Meyerhofer, Linda Sugiyama, François Waelbroeck, Ellen Zweibel

Incoming Members and Officer: Steve Allen (Vice Chair), Debbie Callahan, Jon Menard, John Sarff

DPP Administrator: Saralyn Stewart

Guests: Donna Baudrau, Herb Berk, Lee Berry, Bob Bingham, Chris Deeney, Melissa Douglas, Steve Eckstrand, Nat Fisch, Catherine Fiore, Jill Foley, Chuck Greenfield, Allan Hauer, Ted Hodapp, Mike Lubell, Fred Skiff, Mike Stephens, Tony Taylor

1. Welcome Remarks—Ian Hutchinson

Ian Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m., followed by introductions.

2. Minutes of the 2008 Spring Executive Committee Meeting—Bill Heidbrink

Motion (Chan/Meyerhofer): That the minutes of the Spring 2008 Executive Committee meeting be approved. Passed unanimously.

3. Chair's Report—Ian Hutchinson

Ian announced the results of the DPP election: Steve Allen is the new Vice Chair and Debra Callahan, Jonathan Menard, and John Sarff are the new members of the Executive Committee. Saralyn Stewart provided statistics on participation in the election: 801 members used the web to cast ballots and 24 members used paper ballots. Overall, nearly 1/3 of the membership cast ballots.

Ian reviewed the action items from the spring meeting.

1. The 7th International Conference on Dense Z-pinches was added to the APS list of sponsored meetings and an email message to the membership was delivered.

Done

2. The possibility of Ray Orbach or Pat Dehmer speaking at the Fall DPP annual meeting was explored. They both declined. Subsequent discussion included the following points: a) the invitation should be extended even if it is rarely accepted, b) acceptance is more likely when it is not an election year, c) it is desirable to get on the calendars of these busy administrators (from DOE, NSF, NNSA, or OSCAR) as early as possible, and d) the success rate may be higher if a representative from another agency has already agreed to attend. **Done**

3. Brian Mosley of the APS Washington office arranged a letter-writing campaign for the Fall meeting. Bill Heidbrink and Amitava Bhattacharjee appealed to the Executive Committee to serve as “arm-twisters” who encourage members to write. **Done**
4. Ian Hutchinson and Vincent Chan sent a mailing to Maxwell Prize winners, requesting they donate to the endowment for the Maxwell Prize. The response was “underwhelming.” Ian reminded the committee of a prior decision to match contributions 1:1 with DPP funds. With matching, ~\$70K in donations is needed to endow the prize fully. Vincent and Ian plan to form a committee of ~6 people to solicit sponsorship from members and corporations. **Done**

Action Item #1: Ian Hutchinson and Vincent Chan will convene a committee that will pursue full endowment of the Maxwell Prize.

Items #5 and 6 were discussed under agenda items #13 and #15. Both were **Done**

7. Alan Chodos was to update the APS Prize and Awards website to conform to the new requirement that all nominations must be in electronic format. This was **Not Done**.

Action Item #2: Amitava Bhattacharjee will send new text to Alan Chodos for posting on the webpages of the Maxwell Prize, Dawson Excellence Award, and MNR Thesis Award stating that all nominations must be received in electronic format.

Review of action items #8-11 on educational outreach appear under agenda item #8.

12. Bill Heidbrink asked Donna Baudrau if co-location of the Gaseous Electronics Conference (GEC) with the 2011 meeting in Salt Lake is feasible. It is. Donna provided the leaders of the GEC conference with information so they could make arrangements for their conference. Mark Kushner reported that the GEC leadership has made arrangements for hotel rooms and floor space. **Done**.

13. Tom Antonsen submitted a proposal to Curt Bolton of DOE for \$5K to support the 2009 Sherwood Meeting. **Done**.

14. Saralyn Stewart was to send a timeline to the DPP Executive Committee regarding redesign of the website. This was **Not Done**. (Plans for the website were discussed later in the meeting; see agenda item #19.)

15. Ian Hutchinson wrote a letter on behalf of the DPP thanking the Provost of the University of New Hampshire for the gift of \$5000 in support of *The Plasma Universe*. **Done**.

16. Amitava Bhattacharjee drafted a letter to the editors of *Physics Today* protesting their decision not to print John Greene’s obituary. The DPP Officers reviewed the letter

and it was sent to the journal. The editors of *Physics Today* reversed their decision and agreed to print the obituary. **Done.**

Next, Ian observed that the APS brochure about educational opportunities does not contain any information about the DPP. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Rosenbluth dissertation prize should be mentioned in the brochure.

Action Item #3: Amitava Bhattacharjee will send material on the Rosenbluth dissertation award to APS for inclusion in the APS brochure about educational opportunities.

The final item in Ian's report concerned communication with the membership. Announcements that do not involve DPP business are now distributed bimonthly by the Secretary-Treasurer in an email newsletter. A recent memorandum from Ken Cole and Judy Franz about the APS policy on Unit newsletters was discussed. The policy states that each article or opinion piece must contain a disclaimer that the piece is "solely the views of the authors and not necessarily the views of APS." Since our newsletter currently does not contain articles or opinion pieces but only announcements, it was decided that DPP is already in compliance with this policy.

4. Secretary-Treasurer Report—Bill Heidbrink

Bill summarized the material in his written report. The Division is in good shape financially. Reserves exceed \$800K. Projected revenue is on target for the Division to break even on the Dallas meeting. Membership declined slightly (-0.9%) in 2008.

Ian inquired about the effect of the stock market losses on the Division's reserves. Michael Stephens of the APS answered this question later in the meeting. APS "buffers" the Units from market volatility. The funds are invested in a 65% equity, 35% fixed-return portfolio. The Division currently earns 6.5% on its reserves. This percentage may be reduced in the future if the stock market continues to fall but there are no immediate plans to change the rate.

5. Ballot Statistics and History—Saralyn Stewart

Saralyn submitted a written report concerning the DPP election. Paper ballots are still distributed to some members of the Division who do not provide email addresses.

6. Fellowship Committee Report—Tom Antonsen

Tom submitted a written report. Electronic submissions and deliberations worked well. After a special appeal to Alan Chodos, all 15 people nominated by the Division were accepted as Fellows of the APS.

7. Coalition for Plasma Science Activities—Lee Berry

Lee submitted a written report. Lee highlighted the plasma physics prize at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, a clever spectrometer that uses a CD as a grating and other inexpensive items. He also highlighted the Capitol Hill luncheon, where Riccardo Betti presented an excellent talk on laser-produced plasmas. Although the activities of the Coalition are going well, Lee expressed concern that the activities are sustained by a small group of aging scientists.

Action Item #4a: Lee Berry will work with Jill Foley to inform the Junior Scientists about the activities of the Coalition for Plasma Science.

Action Item #4b: Lee Berry will send an invoice to Bill Heidbrink on behalf of CPS, requesting funds from DPP.

8. Education and Outreach Activities—Chuck Greenfield and Rick Lee

Rick Lee submitted a written report on behalf of Chuck. Ian queried Chuck about the action items from the Spring Meeting that involve Education and Outreach.

8. Chuck Greenfield sent an announcement to Bill Heidbrink that requested membership participation in outreach activities at the Fall DPP meeting. Bill distributed his message to the membership. **Done.**

9. Chuck Greenfield was to select a venue at the annual meeting where undergraduates could meet faculty from potential graduate programs. The student appreciation dinner was selected as the venue but this opportunity was *not* publicized to potentially interested faculty.

Action Item #5: No one was assigned the responsibility to announce a venue where undergraduates can meet faculty from potential graduate programs at the Atlanta meeting. (This issue should be revisited at the Spring DPP ExCom meeting.)

10. Chuck Greenfield was to present a slate of proposed lecturers via email to the DPP Executive Committee for their approval but this was **Not Done.**

Action Item #6: Chuck Greenfield will present a slate of six proposed distinguished lecturers to the DPP Executive Committee at the Spring meeting.

11. Funds for outreach at the Fall meeting were solicited. Only one institution has responded, however. **Done.**

Action Item #7: Bill Heidbrink will contact DPP members at institutions who have not contributed yet to DPP outreach fundraising and inquire if they intend to contribute again in 2008.

Rick and Chuck also summarized the plans for Teacher Workshops, Undergraduate Poster awards, and the Plasma Expo at the Dallas meeting. General Atomics plans to host a Follow-on Workshop for teachers.

9. APS Meetings Department—Donna Baudrau

Donna provided a written report on the sites she was asked to investigate at the Spring meeting. In her estimation, the venues in Portland are too distant for a successful meeting. The members of the ExCom who live on the West Coast stated that Mountain states are acceptable alternatives to Pacific states. Donna recommended a return to the former Adams Mark (newly renovated and renamed the Sheraton) in Denver in 2013. She also recommended that we book New Orleans for the 2014 meeting. Both of these sites meet our criteria of hotel rates and adequate space for a self-contained meeting.

Motion (Kushner/Waelbroeck): That the Fall meeting of the Division be located in Denver in 2013 and in New Orleans in 2014. Unanimously carried.

The whereabouts of previous contracts was discussed. It was decided that the DPP Administrator should receive copies of all DPP contracts from the Secretary-Treasurer.

Action Item #8: Bill Heidbrink will send Saralyn Stewart copies of all existing contracts.

10. DOE Office of Fusion Energy Sciences Report—Steve Eckstrand

Steve provided a written report. He also presented slides with recent information.

11. Department of Energy NNSA Defense Programs Report—Allan Hauer and Chris Deeney

Allan Hauer presented slides with recent information about NNSA activities.

12. APS Public Affairs Office—Mike Lubell

Mike discussed political developments in the last few years. APS participated in an effort that resulted in a supplemental spending bill that restored some of the cuts to science funding in the original FY 2008 budget. In FY2009, APS is identifying science construction projects that could be part of an anticipated stimulus package. Mike stated that the letter writing campaign helps pave the way for the APS public affairs office.

13. 2008 Annual Meeting in Dallas—Amitava Bhattacharjee

Amitava summarized his written report. For the 50th anniversary celebration, an *ad hoc* committee recommended plenary speakers for approval by the program committee. These 8 talks replaced the usual 4 review talks. A new policy for mini-conferences was implemented. The only submission was an excellent one, “Plasma Physics of the Solar Wind: From Parker (1958) to the Present.” Two town meeting proposals were received and accommodated on Monday and Tuesday nights. The Junior Scientists will hold a noon-time town meeting on Tuesday. A symposium on “High Energy Density Laboratory Plasmas: Prospects for a Bright Future” is scheduled for Sunday night. Rick Lee

organized a History Hall of panel displays on the history of the DPP. The American Institute of Physics produced a special publication on *Selected Highly Cited Papers from 50 Years of Plasma Physics*.

This year, the APS Bulletin was printed with higher quality covers and paper at no additional cost to the Division.

A contract was negotiated and signed with KiddieCorp for childcare facilities at the meeting. The membership was notified but only one child signed up, so the program was cancelled. Instead, a Caregiver/Child room with toys and snacks is available at a cost of \$1000 to the Division. Amitava suggested that an arrangement with KiddieCorp might work at the Atlanta meeting if publicized earlier. Discussion ensued. Melissa Douglas said that the committee on Women in Plasma Physics (WIPP) plans a survey. Ellen Zweibel noted that childcare facilities serve male members of the Division as well as female members. Bill Heidbrink stated that the WIPP survey would still be useful as a gauge of potential interest.

Action Item #9: The Women in Plasma Physics will make a recommendation for childcare options in Atlanta to the Executive Committee at the Spring meeting, and will publicize options early.

Amitava distributed drafts of *The Plasma Universe*. He stated that the publisher, Simon Capelin of Cambridge University Press, would like it to be about 20 pages longer. Production of the book will occur shortly. Requests for additional copies should be made soon, as this could lower the ultimate price of the book.

Action Items #10a and 10b: Steve Eckstrand will decide how many copies DOE wants to purchase. Chuck Greenfield will decide if copies should be ordered to distribute to teachers at the annual Teachers Day workshops.

14. International Union of Pure and Applied Physics Commission 16—Mark Koepke

Mark submitted a written report.

15. Public Information Committee—Fred Skiff

Fred submitted a written report. Obtaining input from the program committee for suggested press releases was very helpful this year and should be continued in the future. James Riordon of the APS answered our inquiry about the impact of the press releases. He is not aware of much in the formal press but lots of play online, including one piece on the very popular site Slashdot.org. Mark Kushner noted that releases with video content have greater impact.

The committee failed to establish contacts with local Dallas media. It was noted that the public relations offices of local universities have press contracts, so using them as an

intermediary can be more successful. The Plasma Expo affords the opportunity for good footage for local television.

Action Item #11: The responsibility to contact local media through Georgia Tech or other Atlanta universities should be clarified at the Spring Executive Committee meeting.

16a. Nominating Committee Report—Tony Taylor

Tony summarized his written report and requested suggested APS-wide nominations from the DPP ExCom.

16b. Concerns of Junior Scientists Report—Jill Foley

Jill summarized her written report. The committee planned a special town meeting on “The Next Fifty Years in Fusion Research” with a diverse panel of speakers consisting of David Hammer, Steve Knowlton, Simon Woodruff, Charlie Baker, and Leonid Zakharov. A database of junior scientists was compiled and is available to the Executive Committee.

16c. Women in Plasma Physics—Melissa Douglas

Melissa submitted a written report containing statistics on female representation in various activities of the Division. Women are well represented in invited talks this year. The Division of Plasma Physics has the lowest percentage of women members in the APS.

Action Item #12: The Women in Plasma Physics (Melissa Douglas) will present a proposal for activities at the Fall 2009 meeting during the Spring meeting of the Executive Committee.

17. 2009 APS April Meeting and Sherwood Participation—Tom Antonsen

Tom summarized his written report. The Sherwood meeting is co-locating with the 2009 “April” meeting, which is actually May 2-5. The theme of the April meeting is the 400th anniversary of the invention of the telescope. The joint sessions that involve the DPP will be on ITER diagnostics, plasma astrophysics, and diagnostics for plasma based accelerators.

18. 2009 Annual Meeting in Atlanta—Tom Antonsen and Lee Berry

Tom submitted a written report. The program committee includes many new people. Lee Berry is the local coordinator. The site visit by Tom, Lee, Saralyn Stewart, and Terri Gaier is planned for May 28.

Action Item #13: Bill Heidbrink will prepare a budget for the 2009 meeting and make recommendations for the registration fees at the Spring meeting of the Executive Committee.

19. Website Design Update—Saralyn Stewart

Saralyn summarized her written report. There was hardly any response to the committee's request for feedback. In discussion, there was a consensus that the purpose of this site is principally informational about the organization. Links should be provided to other sites that promote plasma physics.

Action Item #14: Saralyn Stewart will email the design schedule timeline to the DPP ExCom by the end of February, and the design update of the DPP website will be completed by May 2, 2009.

20. Dismissal of Professor Cho—Herb Berk

Herb supplied written information. He appealed to the Executive Committee to write a letter to the University of Tsukuba expressing concern about the dismissal of Professor Cho. Linda Sugiyama stated that, even if the letter gingerly suggested further investigation is needed, the Japanese recipients would interpret the letter as a judgment in favor of Professor Cho. Ian Hutchinson noted that American universities are not transparent in faculty cases of this sort, as they are required to respect the confidentiality of the testimony. Amitava Bhattacharjee wondered if intervention in this case would embroil the DPP in future controversial personnel actions, such as tenure cases. In the absence of support for the action, the matter was dropped without a vote.

21. Division Councilor Report—David Hammer

Dave provided a brief verbal report on the activities of the APS. Ian was commended for his presentation to the Council. A replacement for Judy Franz is expected in 2-3 months. The APS continues to lobby for improvements in the visa process for international scientists, who can now stay in the U.S. for up to 29 months. Additional fellowship slots are reserved for international members. A comparable quota for women or minorities is not in place but the APS does encourage diverse nominations. David has been elected to the APS Executive Board.

Action Item #15: Mark Kushner will send Curtis Callan, current APS Vice President, information about industrial plasmas.

22. APS Education and Diversity—Ted Hodapp

Ted summarized APS education programs. 1/3 of high school physics teachers have degrees in physics. A goal of the APS AAPT is to double the number of undergraduate degrees; in recent decades, the number of undergraduate physics degrees has been flat while other scientific disciplines have risen. The percentage of Hispanics and African-Americans that receive degrees in physics is very low.

APS offers grants to undergraduates to attend the April meeting. This program does not include the DPP meeting, however.

APS is developing a program to pair local high school and middle school teachers with local scientists who are willing to answer their questions.

23. Other New Business—Ian Hutchinson

Ron Cohen recommended that poster sessions on a given topic span at least two sessions to give presenters a better opportunity to see other posters in their specialty. After some discussion, the issue was referred to the program committee.

Linda Sugiyama noted that browsing is more difficult in electronic journals. The issue was referred to the publications committee.

David Meyerhofer commended Ian Hutchinson for his work as Chair of the Division.

24. Date for the 2009 Spring Executive Committee Meeting—Ian Hutchinson

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is Saturday, May 2, 2009 in Denver, Colorado.

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.