

Minutes of the Fall 2009 Executive Committee Meeting
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia
Sunday, November 1, 2009

Members and Officers Present: Steve Allen, Tom Antonsen, Amitava Bhattacharjee, Debbie Callahan, Troy Carter, Ron Cohen, Dan Dubin, Cary Forest, David Hammer, Bill Heidbrink, Denise Hinkel, Ian Hutchinson, Hantao Ji, Mark Koepke, Jon Menard, John Sarff, Linda Sugiyama, Ellen Zweibel

DPP Administrator: Saralyn Stewart

Guests: Donna Baudrau, Lee Berry, Melissa Douglas, Steve Eckstrand, Amy Flatten (via speaker phone), Tim Gray, Terri Gaier, Mike Lubell

1. Welcome Remarks—Amitava Bhattacharjee

Amitava Bhattacharjee called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Introductions followed.

2. Minutes of the Fall 2008 Meetings—Bill Heidbrink

Motion (Sarff/Carter): That the minutes of the Spring 2009 Executive Committee meeting be approved. Passed unanimously.

3. Chair's Report—Amitava Bhattacharjee

Amitava announced the results of the election. Cary Forest is the new Vice-Chair. Denise Hinkel, Hantao Ji, and Mark Koepke are the new members of the Executive Committee.

Amitava reviewed the action items from the spring meeting.

1. Amitava Bhattacharjee contacted Tom Hodapp to discuss adding information about the Rosenbluth prize to the APS brochure on educational opportunities. Tom explained that the brochure concerns new prizes. A link about the Rosenbluth prize will be added to the Graduate Student Forum. **Done.**
2. The Junior Scientists committee was to contact Lee Berry for information about the Coalition for Plasma Science but this was **not done**. Tim Gray did make arrangements for Lee to make an announcement to the Junior Scientists during the APS-DPP conference.
3. Tom Antonsen arranged for a student appreciation reception on Tuesday evening at the conference. **Done.**
4. Amitava Bhattacharjee ordered copies of *The Plasma Universe* for use at the Teachers Day workshops. 170 copies were also delivered to the DOE Office of Fusion Energy Sciences. **Done.**
- 5a. Rick Lee and Saralyn Stewart sent a description of the outreach events to Tom Antonsen. **Done.**
- 5b. Mark Kushner was to send information about the public information office at Georgia Tech to Tom Antonsen but this was **not done**.

5c. Amitava Bhattacharjee informed Earl Scime about the value of animations in press releases. As a result, some movies were submitted and will be posted on a website by the APS. In future years, movies should be a standard component of selected press releases.

Done.

6a. Tom Antonsen contacted the editors of *The Physics of Plasmas* to clarify the copyright issues of posting invited and review talks on the DPP website. Some items are already posted. Additional postings require clear statements concerning peer review.

Done.

Action Item 1: Tom Antonsen will refer the issue to Peter Gary of the Publication Committee. They will be asked to formulate a recommendation for consideration at the Spring 2010 Executive Committee meeting.

7. Bill Heidbrink and Tom Antonsen made arrangements with Brian Mosley of APS for a Contact Congress letter-writing campaign at the Atlanta meeting. Brian Mosley wants more “arm-twisters” to encourage members to sign the petition at the meeting. Tim Gray sent an announcement to the Junior Scientists. Amitava and Bill Heidbrink recommended asking graduate students to serve as arm-twisters. **Done.**

8. Amitava Bhattacharjee appointed a committee to discuss a joint EPS-APS award, as was reported in detail later in his report. **Done.**

9. Tom Antonsen contacted Sue Otwell at APS concerning childcare grants. Sue offered advice but declined to administer the program, so Melissa Douglas did. **Done.**

10a. Tim Gray did not collect a list of junior scientists who are interested in lobbying during Fusion Day. Tim said that Mark Haynes will speak at the Junior Scientists meeting and a sign-up list will be distributed there. **Done during the conference.**

10b. Steve Allen did not need to update the “best practices” document for the Fellowship Committee because the current document is excellent. **Done.**

11. Amitava discussed scientific accomplishments in plasma physics with Curt Bolton. Bolton said that recent accomplishments are not widely known. Amitava noted that both the ReNeW process and *The Plasma Universe* contain relevant material. It was decided that OFES should issue a formal request if they need a report. Steve Eckstrand agreed to consider the matter. **Done.**

12. Rick Lee did not prepare and distribute a flyer on the Distinguished Lecturer program. He plans to distribute the flyer next month. **Not done.**

13. An announcement of the deadline for invited talks was sent to the membership. **Done.**

14. Budget categories for conference expenses was discussed later in the meeting.

15. Bill Graham was informed about the need to complete negotiations for co-location of the Gaseous Electronics Conference with the DPP at the 2011 meeting. **Done.**

16. The Spring meeting of the Executive Committee will be on April 17 at APS headquarters in College Park. The APS Council and Executive Board will also be meeting at that time. **Done.**

After reviewing the action items from the spring meeting, Amitava continued his report by discussing *The Plasma Universe*. Cambridge Press sent 2200 copies to the University of New Hampshire. From there, they were distributed to attendees at the 50th

meeting, to DOE (170 copies), and to Atlanta for distribution at Teacher's Day (150 copies). The remaining copies will be sent to Saralyn Stewart.

Next, Amitava initiated a discussion of a proposed letter to Secretary Chu concerning the Early Career program. He reviewed the motivation for the letter. Many university programs do not have young plasma physics faculty members, so they do not benefit from the existing program. The goal of the modified program would be to encourage universities to appoint junior faculty. When the draft letter was circulated to the Executive Committee, some people asked if Steve Chu was the appropriate recipient. Amitava discussed the matter with Ed Synakowski, Mark Koepke, and Darlene Markovich. Although they are forbidden to give specific recommendations, they noted that Chu had fostered similar programs in the past. They also noted that, in order to institute such a program, Synakowski would have to discuss it with Secretary Chu. Also, the proposed program could extend beyond the Office of Fusion Energy Sciences to include areas such as high performance computing and applied math. Another question that was raised previously by the Executive Committee was why the letter focused on universities to the exclusion of national labs. Amitava explained that he wanted to focus on this specific issue because it impacts the availability of young researchers throughout the field.

In discussion, Troy Carter asked for clarification of the existing Early Career program. Steve Eckstrand answered that it is for both labs and universities in a 1:2 ratio. All areas of plasma science participate. DOE has embarked on a large increase in this program that will reach its steady-state level in five years. Ron Cohen said that his concern is insuring that postdocs make the transition to permanent employee at the national labs. Ellen Zweibel asked for clarification on the problem being addressed: is it a shortage of young people in the field or is it an imbalance between universities and national labs? Amitava answered that the purpose is to address a shortage of young people. Cary Forest noted that new faculty slots broaden the base for the entire program. Ellen Zweibel asked if colleges should be included but Tim Gray answered that positions at colleges are not allocated by discipline. Ian Hutchinson asked several questions, including "Are the arguments in the letter persuasive?" He also questioned whether the program would really help the field: at many institutions, securing departmental approval for a plasma physics appointment is the principal barrier. Amitava replied that it depended on the institution. David Hammer, Bill Heidbrink, and Tom Antonsen said that the program could conceivably result in additional faculty appointments at their universities. Ellen Zweibel observed that a similar NSF program added six positions that strengthened existing plasma physics groups. Ian Hutchinson advocated replacing "interdisciplinary" in the letter with "plasma science." Ian advocated sending the letter to Secretary Chu if the goal is for him to grant Offices within DOE the flexibility to implement such a program. Steve Eckstrand said that strategic partnerships to create programs like this one required action at Chu's level. Amitava answered that the goal was to give Offices within DOE flexibility. He noted that, if OFES alone implemented a program, Ed Synakowski would have to find the money within his existing budget. Mark Koepke suggested giving the money directly to graduate students. Cary Forest asked about a mechanism for senior hires at institutions seeking to establish a plasma physics program. Jon Menard noted that virtually all branches of science were concerned about

demographics and opined that demographics alone is not a compelling argument for plasma physics appointments. Amitava concluded the discussion by saying that he would consult with Ed Synakowski and Steve Koonin.

The final topic in the Chair's report was a joint prize with the EPS. The proposed statutes in the written report are the work of a committee of four Americans and four Europeans. The prize is named after Landau and Spitzer, will be awarded biannually, is given for work that advances the collaboration and unity between the two societies, and will be given to a junior scientist (maximum of 10 years from Ph.D.) at least every second time. In discussion, Dan Dubin commended the committee for their proposal. Tom Antonsen asked if the proposed statutes have been reviewed by Alan Chodos; Amitava answered that they have not. Ellen Zweibel observed that Lyman Spitzer was estranged from his father and that it would be best to know whether the "Jr." in Spitzer's name should be included before approaching Spitzer's family for their approval. Linda Sugiyama was concerned that some scientists do not have the funds to travel to Europe early in their career. Steve Allen asked if provisions for travel funds for the recipient to attend the conference have been considered. Mark Koepke asked if the Japanese society should be included; Amitava answered that would be too difficult. Ron Cohen asked about the currency for the award; Amitava answered that the Europeans had agreed to use dollars rather than euros. John Sarff suggested that the prize be exclusively an early career award; Amitava answered that this restriction was not incorporated to insure an adequate nomination pool. Troy Carter wondered if the prize has too much overlap with the Dawson prize. Cary Forest suggested that the DPP institute an early career award of our own. At the conclusion of the discussion, Amitava said that the EPS Board will discuss the proposed statutes at their November meeting, then revised statutes will be submitted for votes of the DPP Executive Committee and EPS Board.

4. Secretary-Treasurer Report—Bill Heidbrink

Bill summarized his written report. The Division has net assets of approximately \$951K. DPP membership is stable.

Action Item 2: Saralyn Stewart will work with APS Membership to contact lapsed DPP members.

5. Ballot Statistics—Saralyn Stewart

Saralyn Stewart summarized her written report. The number of paper ballots continues to decline.

6. APS International Travel Grant Program—Amy Flatten

Amy Flatten summarized her written report by phone. She thanked the DPP for our support and highlighted positive testimonials about the program. Amy was asked if \$2K was a large enough grant; she replied that it generally paid for airfare but local expenses were paid for by the host. After she hung up, the committee discussed continued participation. It was noted that few plasma physicists had availed themselves of the program. There was a general consensus that, if we continue our participation, the membership should be better informed.

Motion (Cohen/Dubin): That we continue to support the Travel Grant program with a contribution of \$2K per year. Passed unanimously.

Action Item 3a: Bill Heidbrink will notify Amy Flatten and Mike Stephens of DPPs continuing participation in the APS International Travel Grant Award Program (ITGAP).

Action Item 3b: Bill Heidbrink will inform George Tynan to send an announcement to the University Fusion Association. Bill will also announce the program in the DPP E-News.

Action Item 3c: Saralyn Stewart will add a link from the DPP website to the ITGAP page on the APS website.

7. Fellowship Committee Report—Steve Allen

Steve summarized his report. Only one woman was nominated and she was not selected. Steve stated that the role of the committee should be to select candidates, not to promote them. Amitava Bhattacharjee noted that industrial nominations also posed a challenge. Tom Antonsen observed that the fraction of senior women who are Fellows is comparable to the fraction of senior men who are Fellows. Linda Sugiyama provided some historical perspective. She said that the Women in Plasma Physics (WIPP) was established to redress an imbalance in the number of women fellows but, more recently, WIPP has focused on young members to raise the overall number of women in the Division. It was noted that many of the women who have been selected were not nominated through DPP. Ellen Zweibel stated that it should not be up to women to insure an adequate pool of women nominees.

Action Item 4: Amitava Bhattacharjee will discuss with Melissa Douglas about ways to insure qualified women plasma physicists are nominated.

8. Coalition for Plasma Science—Lee Berry

Lee summarized the Coalition's activities. The Intel Science Fair had over 25 plasma physics projects, considerably more than in the past. The annual Washington presentation to congressional staff will happen on November 10. The webpage has been maintained. Amitava Bhattacharjee commended the webpage for lucidity and accuracy. The Coalition still needs new members to replace retirees.

9. Education and Outreach—Rick Lee

Rick discussed his written report. Approximately 150 teachers are expected at the Teachers Day in Atlanta, which is considerably more than in previous years. Seven parallel sessions are planned. Rick encouraged Executive Committee members to join the teachers for lunch. As usual, a follow-up workshop for participating teachers is planned for the spring.

Thirteen exhibitors will participate in the Plasma Expo; this is two more than last year but fewer than the 20 that were desired. Approximately 2,000 students are expected to attend.

Seventy undergraduates and high school students will present posters on Tuesday. Judges are needed to select the six awards.

The moribund Distinguished Lecturer program will be reactivated soon. In light of the late start this year, Rick may ask the speakers to continue next year as well.

Rick thanked the DPP for their financial support. Amitava Bhattacharjee commended Rick for his service. Lee Berry requested that the DPP thank Darlene Markevich for her many years of support for DPP outreach. Amitava said that she would be recognized at the banquet. The issue of her replacement at DOE was discussed.

Action Item 5: Amitava Bhattacharjee will write a letter to Ed Synakowski recognizing Darlene Markevich's years of service to DPP, and ask who will be Darlene's replacement.

10. APS Meetings Department—Donna Baudrau and Terri Gaier

Donna told the committee that Savannah has made a very attractive offer for the 2015 meeting. She summarized the details in her written report. Steve Allen stated that we would rather have a lower hotel rate than a rebate to the Division. Lee Berry remarked that Savannah had adequate meeting space in the convention center. Hantao Ji wanted more information. David Hammer said that Donna had a strong track record; in the past, if she recommended something as a good opportunity, it has worked out well. Bill Heidbrink and Steve Allen assured the committee that Donna was right: this was an unusually good deal.

Motion (Hammer/Menard): That the 2015 meeting be held in Savannah. Passed unanimously.

Next, Donna summarized revenue at the current meeting. The pre-registration rate (1325), banquet tickets, and WIPP luncheon tickets were all in good shape; projections indicate that we are likely to meet the minimum for the room block.

Donna informed the committee that she had provided the Gaseous Electronics Conference (GEC) leaders with information about the 2011 meeting but they have not yet acted on it.

Action Item 6: Amitava Bhattacharjee will contact Bill Graham (contact for the Gaseous Electronics Conference) to remind him to complete the required contracts.

Mark Koepke asked about conflicts of scheduling satellite meetings. Terri Gaier responded that it is difficult to coordinate these, as many are private.

Amitava Bhattacharjee asked about the discrepancies between the spreadsheet we received last spring and the accounting categories employed by Mike Stephens. Terri answered that there were typos in the spreadsheet.

11. DOE Office of Fusion Energy Sciences—Steve Eckstrand
Steve apprised the committee of recent OFES activities.

12. APS Public Affairs Office—Mike Lubell

Mike summarized the recent history of science funding. He recounted the successful effort to secure stimulus money for science. A concern is a likely reduction in funding at NSF in 2012 when the many grants supported by stimulus funding expire.

13. 2009 Annual Meeting in Atlanta—Tom Antonsen

Tom summarized his written report. After his summary, Ron Cohen expressed the sentiment that there are too many town meetings and satellite meetings. The desirability of forcing people to schedule their meetings on Thursday was debated. Mike Lubell made a plea for arm-twisters for the Contact Congress letter writing campaign.

14. 2010 APS April Meeting—Steve Allen

Steve reported that the “April” meeting is actually in February this year. The Society of Black Physicists and the Society of Hispanic Physicists will attend. They will hold a joint session; the first three talks are about plasma physics.

Action Item 7a: Tom Antonsen will contact the HEDLP organizing committee to see if they would consider co-locating with the 2011 APS April meeting in Anaheim, California.

Action Item 7b: Cary Forest will contact the Sherwood organizing committee to see if they are willing to co-locate with the 2012 APS April meeting.

15. 2010 Annual Meeting in Chicago—Steve Allen

Steve learned that the program committee for the 2010 meeting should have already been approved by the Executive Committee. This information was not in the “Best Practices” document. Provisionally, Darren Craig will be the local coordinator for the Chicago meeting.

Action Item 8: Saralyn Stewart will send Darren Craig a document that describes the responsibilities of the local organizer.

16. International Union of Pure and Applied Physics Commission 16—Mark Koepke
Mark summarized his written report.

17. Public Information Committee—Earl Scime

Earl submitted a written report.

18. Website Update—Saralyn Stewart

Saralyn appealed to the Executive Committee to review the new website and to send suggestions for improvements.

Motion (Carter/Zweibel): DPP will conduct a contest for a new logo, with the winner receiving a prize of \$500. Passed unanimously.

Action Item 9: Bill Heidbrink will announce the contest to the membership. Amitava Bhattacharjee appointed Tom Antonsen, Troy Carter, Ron Cohen, and Saralyn Stewart to an *ad hoc* committee to select the new logo.

19. Division Councilor Report—David Hammer

Despite the economic downturn, the financial condition of the APS is not dire. The largest uncertainty is associated with possible changes in revenue for publications. The APS will increase the membership fee for joining a division by one dollar (to \$8). The small proportion of women, minorities, and industrial physicists in the membership of the APS is a major concern of the APS Council. Hantao Ji asked if industrial physicists are sparsely represented in all divisions; David answered that he thinks so. Lee Berry asked why it is important for the APS to engage industrial physicists, as organizations such as the IEEE and AVS already serve them. David answered that the connection would help the APS represent physics more accurately. Mike Lubell answered that interaction with industrial physicists is beneficial to graduate students; also, the connection is valuable to the Washington lobbying effort, which could be expanded from federal funding issues to issues such as intellectual property rights.

20. Additional Committee Reports

David Meyerhofer submitted a written report on behalf of the nominating committee.

Tim Gray summarized his written report on the activities of the Committee on the Concerns of Junior Scientists. Two meetings in Atlanta are planned: a joint panel discussion with the Women in Plasma Physics and a town meeting. Tim raised the matter of stipends for junior scientists to participate in Fusion Day but the issue was not resolved at the meeting.

Melissa Douglas reported on the activities of the Women in Plasma Physics. A reasonable number of women are giving invited talks this year. Bill Heidbrink argued for more female session chairs but Ellen Zweibel opposed the idea.

Action Item 10a: Melissa Douglas will provide Steve Allen with a list of potential women session chairs for use at the Chicago meeting.

A luncheon is scheduled this year but there will not be a reception—there is the joint panel with the Junior Scientists instead. The childcare room was greatly appreciated last year and is available again this year. The childcare grants were a success. Seven applicants were awarded a total of \$2000. To gather more information to guide future planning, a survey will be distributed with the meeting materials.

Action Item 10b: Melissa Douglas will provide Steve Allen with a list of potential women nominees for Fellowship.

21. Maxwell Prize Endowment Update—Ian Hutchinson

Ian summarized his written report. Contributions totaling \$27K have been received. The committee is now ready to initiate a general appeal to the membership. Ian urged members of the Executive Committee to contribute.

22. Other New Business

Troy Carter said that Dick Berger urges the DPP to draft two-page documents on Climate Change and on Energy Sustainability for submission to NSF.

Action Item 11: Troy Carter, Hantao Ji, and Ron Cohen will write two-page draft documents on Climate Change and Energy Sustainability for submission to NSF, and will send them to Tom Antonsen, Mike Lubell, and Saralyn Stewart for comment.

Ron Cohen raised the issue of the controversial APS statement on climate change. Opinions should be relayed to David Hammer. Amitava Bhattacharjee volunteered to announce the issue at the DPP Business Meeting.

Tom Antonsen led discussion about DPP giving travel awards of \$500 each to graduate or undergraduate students to attend and present their work at the 2010 DPP Annual Meeting. Guidelines will need to be established, and applications received, with a letter of support from student's advisors. The maximum amount DPP set-aside for student travel awards is \$5,000.

Motion (Antonsen/Menard): DPP will receive applications and distribute travel awards of \$500 each to graduate or undergraduate students. The maximum amount DPP set-aside is \$5,000. Passed unanimously.

Action Item 12: Information about student travel grant awards in the amount of \$500 each will be announced on the APS-DPP website.

23. 2010 Spring Executive Committee Meeting

The spring meeting will be held at APS headquarters on April 17.

24. Adjourn—Amitava Bhattacharjee

Amitava thanked outgoing members Ian Hutchinson, Linda Sugiyama, Ellen Zweibel, and Ron Cohen for their service. The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.