

Minutes of the Fall 2010 Executive Committee Meeting
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Chicago, Illinois
Sunday, November 7, 2010

Members and Officers Present: Steve Allen, Tom Antonsen, Amitava Bhattacharjee, Debbie Callahan, Troy Carter, John Cary, Dan Dubin, Cary Forest, David Hammer, Bill Heidbrink, Denise Hinkel, Hantao Ji, Mark Koepke, Mark Kushner, Jonathan Menard, John Sarff

Incoming Members and Officers: Karl Krushelnick, Thomas Mehlhorn, David Montgomery, Fred Skiff

DPP Administrator: Saralyn Stewart

Guests: Donna Baudrau, Lee Berry, Jeff Brooks, Mike Brown, Alan Chodos, Richard Dendy, Steve Eckstrand, Steve Gitomer, Satoshi Hamaguchi, Rick Lee, Mike Lubell, Masayuki Ono, Mary Ann Sweeney

1. Welcome Remarks—Tom Antonsen

Tom Antonsen called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Introductions followed.

2. Minutes of the Spring 2010 Meetings—Bill Heidbrink

Motion (Carter/Callahan): That the minutes of the Spring 2010 Executive Committee meeting be approved. Passed unanimously.

3. Chair's Report—Tom Antonsen

Tom discussed his written report. He announced the new officers and executive committee members and recognized the outgoing officers and members. Next, Tom reported that fewer than 100 copies of the first printing of *The Plasma Universe* remain in stock. Originally 3,200 copies were printed. Cambridge University Press is likely to issue a second printing if the DPP purchases ~ 700 copies. These copies are distributed as part of our various education & outreach activities.

Motion (Antonsen/Allen): That the DPP enter into negotiations with Cambridge University Press to purchase 600-700 copies of *The Plasma Universe* for \$10,000. Passed unanimously.

John Holdren was invited to speak at our Chicago meeting but he ultimately declined. Carl Wieman is a possibility for the 2011 meeting but it was decided that Cary Forest should hear his talk at the April meeting before issuing an invitation.

Establishment of the Landau Spitzer award is nearly complete. Final approval is anticipated at the APS Council meeting on November 20. The timing of the first award

has not yet been determined but it could be as early as June 2011. The funds for the award will be sequestered in an APS board designated account.

Action Item #1: If the Landau Spitzer award is approved, Steve Allen will need to consult with EPS officers about the timing for the first award and appoint three DPP members to the selection committee.

Motion (Bhattacharjee/Carter): The DPP endorses the 2011 Sherwood Meeting. Passed unanimously.

Tom mentioned the communication from Dave Crandall in his written report. Crandall's new assignment in the Office of the Under Secretary for Science will be directly supporting Dr. Steven Koonin on national security matters, including helping to design a government approach to inertial fusion energy technology. Crandall will facilitate cooperation and collaboration between NNSA and the Office of Science.

A request from Michael Turner to endorse the Decadal Study in Astrophysics was discussed. Several members indicated that the report covers plasma physics sparingly. Amitava Bhattacharjee observed that we want to have a positive relationship with astrophysics. Others questioned if this was the appropriate vehicle.

Action Item #2: Hantao Ji and Cary Forest will draft a statement concerning the 2010 Decadal Study in Astrophysics for subsequent review by the DPP Executive Committee.

4. Action Items—Tom Antonsen

Tom reviewed the status of the Action Items from the spring meeting.

- 1) Troy Carter created a website for Contact Congress "arm twisters." **Done.**
- 2) Steve Allen arranged for the posting of slides from invited, review, and tutorial talks on the *Physics of Plasmas* website. **Done.**
- 3) Tom Antonsen recommended a bulk order of *The Plasma Universe* to the Executive Committee. **Done.**
- 4) Cary Forest plans to send a letter to laboratory leaders encouraging them to nominate qualified women for APS Fellowship.

Action Item #3: Cary Forest will send the letter to laboratory leaders encouraging them to nominate qualified women for APS Fellowship by February 2011.

- 5) DPP officers did attend the meeting of the Sherwood Executive Committee. A survey of Sherwood participants about co-location with the April APS meeting was evenly split, with nearly equal numbers of respondents in favor as opposed. The Sherwood Executive Committee decided to co-locate with the April APS meeting in 2012. It was noted that similar locations for the April and DPP meetings make co-location less attractive. **Done.**
- 6) Steve Allen did receive a list of potential female session chairs from Mary Ann Sweeney and made an effort to place them. **Done.**

7) The committee of Troy Carter, Hantao Ji, and Ron Cohen did *not* complete draft documents on Climate Change and Energy Sustainability for submission to NSF. Troy requested a one-month extension. **Not done.**

Action Item #4: The committee of Troy Carter, Hantao Ji, and Ron Cohen will complete a draft document on Climate Change and Energy Sustainability for submission to NSF and forward it to Steve Allen December 2010.

- 8) Student travel grant awards were announced and granted to 11 recipients. **Done.**
- 9) Bill Heidbrink notified Donna Baudrau about the registration fees. **Done.**
- 10) Bill Heidbrink requested a proposal for the 2010 Job Fair from Alix Brice. **Done.**
- 11) Saralyn Stewart requested and received a revised Rosenbluth Doctoral Thesis Award committee report from Joel Fajans. **Done.**
- 12) Tom Antonsen forwarded the proposal for the Landau-Spitzer award to Alan Chodos. **Done.**
- 13) Mary Ann Sweeney and Tim Gray planned an evening program for the DPP meeting. **Done.**
- 14) Mark Kushner provided Rick Lee with contact information for John Anderson. **Done.**
- 15) Tom Antonsen asked Mark Koepke to lead the DPP Distinguished Lecturer program; Mark tentatively accepted the position. **Done.**
- 16) Tom Antonsen did invite John Holdren to speak at the DPP meeting. **Done.**
- 17) Bill Heidbrink sent a message to the membership announcing the deadline for invited talks. **Done.**
- 18) Mark Kushner and the GEC leadership worked with Donna Baudrau to coordinate the 2011 meeting. **Done.**
- 19) Earl Scime advised Saralyn about the content of the DPP website. **Done.**
- 20) Steve Eckstrand informed Tim Gray about job opportunities within the Office of Fusion Energy Sciences. **Done.**
- 21) Bill Heidbrink transferred matching funds for the Maxwell Prize from the general DPP account. **Done.**
- 22) Amitava Bhattacharjee revised the letter to Steve Koonin and distributed it at the ExCom meeting. Amitava then received several suggestions for improvement that he incorporated. **Done.**

5. Secretary-Treasurer Report—Bill Heidbrink

Bill summarized his written report and Saralyn mentioned the latest membership count.

6. Ballot Statistics and History—Saralyn Stewart

Saralyn provided a written summary of voting statistics in the last election. There was a problem this year with members forwarding their unique voting URL to other members; the problem was eventually resolved. Instructions discouraging this practice will be included in the email message next year.

Action Item #5: Saralyn Stewart will include instructions to DPP members in the 2011 DPP Election email message, discouraging forwarding their individual email message to other colleagues.

7. APS International Travel Grant Program Participation—Bill Heidbrink

This item of the agenda was omitted.

8. Fellowship Committee Report—Cary Forest

Cary Forest summarized his written report. Cary suggested that a list of papers with numbers of citations would assist the committee. This suggestion was discussed at length. Amitava Bhattacharjee opposed the suggestion because it could discourage nominations. John Cary asked what the criteria for selection are and was told that there are no formal criteria. He pointed out that specifying the contents of the nomination packet imply criteria. Several people noted that criteria beyond number of citations are important; in particular, patents are more important than publications in low temperature industrial plasma physics. Others felt that some guidance to nominators was helpful. In particular, a list of the most important publications insures that important work isn't overlooked. Alan Chodos said APS would include whatever additional instructions we desire.

Action Item #6: Cary Forest and Fred Skiff will decide if the APS Fellowship nomination website needs improvement, to include a list of the nominees papers with numbers of citations, to assist the selection committee.

9. Education and Outreach Activities—Rick Lee

Rick summarized his written report. Expected attendance at Teachers Day will be less than normal because teachers in the municipal Chicago school district are not participating. There will be a follow-up workshop in the spring. Attendance at the Plasma Expo will also be lighter than usual. Three local laboratories are participating this year. Judges are needed for the undergraduate poster session on Tuesday afternoon. The flyer for the Distinguished Lecturer program is being revised. Paul Miller, a former high school teacher and current Assistant Professor at West Virginia University, is the new DPP Education and Outreach Chair.

Motion (Carter/Callahan): That the budget proposed by Rick Lee for a DPP contribution of \$21,600 be approved. Passed unanimously.

10. APS Office: Public Outreach—Alan Chodos

Alan Chodos explained the proposal for an APS Forum on Outreach and Engaging the Public. The emphasis of this Forum will complement the Forum on Education, which concentrates on curricular issues and the Forum on Physics and Society that deals with public policy issues. Motivational activities such as a "Physics on the Road" conference will be the purview of this Forum. The APS Council will consider this proposal at their November meeting.

11. Additional Committee Reports

Masayuki Ono summarized his written report on the Nominating Committee. It was challenging to find willing candidates in a timely fashion for some of the positions.

Tim Gray submitted a written report on the activities of the Committee on the Concerns of Junior Scientists but did not attend the ExCom meeting.

Mary Ann Sweeney discussed her written report on the activities of the Committee on Women in Plasma Physics. Her report includes statistics on the percentage of women in DPP activities. Women constitute 7% of DPP members. They are well represented in DPP committees and in the 2010 DPP Technical Program. This year, 12% of the invited speakers are women. Mary Ann summarized the plans for activities at the meeting. Childcare grants were awarded again this year. Denise Hinkel corrected an error in the written report: Denise is a DPP member.

Mary Ann Sweeney summarized her written report on the Katherine Weimer Award.

Action Item #7: Steve Allen will appoint three new members to the Katherine Weimer selection committee for the 2011 DPP award.

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

Steve Eckstrand summarized his written report; Mark Koepke also answered questions.

13. NSF Report—Steve Gitomer

Steve introduced himself and described his responsibilities. The NSF-DOE partnership in basic plasma physics is his largest program. Approximately 20% of proposals are funded. He also distributes funds for Career awards, for Major Research Infrastructure (MRI) grants, and conference and workshop grants. Cary Forest asked if the issues identified in the Plasma 2010 report are being addressed. Steve answered that they are not an explicit consideration in funding. Steve Eckstrand noted that low temperature plasmas and high-energy density plasmas were included in the request for proposals.

14. APS Political Report—Mike Lubell

Mike described the expected impact of the recent election. Republicans are in the majority in the House; the Democrats retain a small majority in the Senate, and the President is a Democrat. As a result, gridlock is likely and science funding may operate under continuing resolutions until after the 2012 presidential election. Bipartisan support for increased science budgets no longer holds. When the stimulus money ends in 2012, NSF budgets may drop significantly.

Mike noted that many new members of Congress have an anti-Washington bias. He feels that advocacy for science funding should emphasize the associated jobs in representatives' home states and the positive impact of science on the economy.

15. APS Meetings Department—Donna Baudrau

In her written report, Donna identified three cities as possibilities for the 2016 meeting: San Jose, Baltimore, and Long Beach. After clarifications, the committee narrowed consideration to Long Beach and San Jose because there are no planned meetings in that region of the country. Several members expressed the opinion that we should select San Jose because we have been to Long Beach but have never met in San Jose.

Motion (Hammer/Dubin): That the 2016 meeting be held in San Jose. Passed with three opposed.

Since the dissenters had not expressed the grounds for their opposition prior to the vote, Tom Antonsen asked them why they had voted “No.” John Cary and Denise Hinkel said that they know San Jose well and think that Long Beach is a better location.

Motion (Hinkel/Cary): To reconsider the decision to meet in San Jose in 2016. The motion failed.

Several members said that Baltimore is an attractive option for 2017.

Motion (Kushner/Callahan): That Baltimore is included in the list of possible venues for the 2017 meeting. Passed unanimously.

Terri Gaier reported that, for the Chicago meeting, we received over 1800 abstracts, had scheduled 40 satellite meetings, and had already filled 89% of the hotel room block.

16. 2010 Annual Meeting in Chicago—Steve Allen

Steve Allen described preparations for the meeting. The program committee functioned effectively. Steve instructed each subcommittee to discuss all of the nominations prior to ranking them. This will be incorporated into the Best Practices document. He received complaints about having IFE and MFE contributed oral talks on Friday but, in light of the large number of requests for contributed oral talks, there was no alternative. Walter Gekelman’s 3D presentation on Monday cost the Division \$8K, which Steve paid out of his discretionary funds. The postdeadline selection process worked satisfactorily. Slides from the invited, review, and tutorial talks will be posted on the *Physics of Plasmas* website for about one year; this circumvents copyright restrictions. The booth for the Contact Congress letter writing campaign is in an excellent location this year. Requests for four strong mini-conferences were received and accommodated: one on momentum transport, one on high-performance computations, one on the solar wind, and one on meta-materials. Steve summarized the schedule for the town meetings. As in previous years, there is a childcare room. Steve invited the 2010 subcommittee chairs to attend the meeting of the 2011 program committee on Thursday of this week. A raffle is planned for Friday.

17. 2011 APS April Meeting—Cary Forest

In an attempt to develop an attractive program for potential speakers, Cary decided to emphasize plasma astrophysics. There are 9 invited plasma talks that will be distributed between 6 sessions for a total of 18 invited speakers. Categories for the sessions include laboratory plasmas, cosmic rays, dynamos, and protostars.

Action Item #8: Fred Skiff should try to get a plenary talk on plasma physics at the 2012 APS April meeting in Anaheim.

18. 2011 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City—Cary Forest

Eric Held has agreed to be local coordinator for the meeting. Co-location with the Gaseous Electronics Conference (GEC) is proceeding. Several joint sessions are planned, including one joint review talk and one joint tutorial. The GEC has already selected 6 invited speakers for their meeting. Three people from the GEC will serve on the DPP program committee to facilitate the joint sessions. There may be fewer mini-conferences than usual but proposals will still be considered. Cooperation between the APS Meetings staff and the GEC organizers is satisfactory.

Cary Forest asked for feedback about a proposal to study social interactions at the meeting. Discussion ensued.

Action Item #9: Cary Forest will present a specific “social network” proposal at the Spring DPP ExCom meeting in Anaheim.

19. Classic Physics Publications—Dan Dubin

Dan proposed that the DPP scan classic plasma physics publications that are out of print and post PDF versions on a website. A number of concerns about copyright issues and potential liability were raised. Mark Kushner expressed strong support; the American Vacuum Society already does this. Other ExCom members also expressed support.

Action Item #10: Dan Dubin proposed that DPP scan classic plasma physics publications that are out of print and post PDF versions on a website. Dan will present a concrete proposal at the Spring DPP ExCom meeting in Anaheim.

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

Mark summarized his written report. The IUPAP DPP representative and associate representative will change in 2011.

Action Item #11: Mark Koepke will contact Steve Allen for suggested nominees for replacement as IUPAP DPP representative and associate representative.

21. Public Information Committee—Earl Scime

Earl submitted a written report but did not attend the meeting.

22. Logo Contest Update—Saralyn Stewart

Saralyn announced the winners of the contest.

23. Division Councilor Report—David Hammer

David Hammer gave a brief report. The APS finances recovered well from the recent drop. There will be four international councilors. Nomination of a plasma physicist from a region that is not represented will improve the likelihood of selection. The Ridge New York site is in the midst of a \$20M expansion. As a result of the controversy surrounding the APS statement about climate change, changes in the bylaws concerning policy positions are in the works. A Topical Group on the Physics of Climate Change is being organized. It combines separate proposals by a group of ~ 200 that are dissatisfied with

the APS statement and a larger group of ~800 that are more supportive. The APS is in the process of revising its mission statement; eventually, the units will be asked to revise their statements too.

24. HEDLP ReNEW Update—David Hammer

The report was released in the fall of 2010.

25. Coalition for Plasma Science Activities—Lee Berry

Lee Berry augmented his written report. Judges are needed for the International Science and Engineering Fair. Paul Rivenberg is leading a new project to develop a fast-paced video about plasmas. Lee emphasized the importance of including plasma topics in national and state science standards.

26. Maxwell Prize Endowment—Ian Hutchinson

Ian submitted a written report but did not attend the meeting.

Motion (Heidbrink/Cary): That the campaign end by the April DPP ExCom meeting and that the DPP supply the remaining funds to fully endow the Prize at that date. The motion failed.

There was general agreement that the campaign to endow the fund should end at the end of 2010, but the April date was considered too arbitrary.

Action Item #12: Saralyn Stewart and Bill Heidbrink will work with Ian Hutchinson to prepare an announcement about the Maxwell Prize campaign to present on Thursday morning, November 11, 2010.

27. EPS and APS Scientific Program—Richard Dendy

Although many nominations by international authors were selected for invited talks, none of the nominations recommended by the EPS or JSPF were chosen. Richard delicately raised this issue on behalf of the EPS and Satoshi Hamaguchi contributed to the discussion from the Japanese perspective. A long discussion ensued. Everyone agreed that international presentations enrich the conference. Koepke advocated designated slots for international speakers. Menard opined that a country by country quota is unworkable because circumstances change year by year. Heidbrink, Bhattacharjee, Cary, and Mehlhorn favored international representation on the program committee without formal quotas.

Action Item #13: The committee of John Cary, Tom Mehlhorn, Steve Allen, and Satoshi Hamaguchi will make a recommendation at the Spring DPP ExCom meeting in Anaheim concerning international participation for invited talks.

28. National Research Council Plasma Science Committee—Mike Brown

Mike Brown gave a brief report. The purpose of the committee is to strengthen plasma science across disciplines. They are promoting opportunities recommended by the 2010

plasma science decadal study, such as “intermediate scale” (~\$1M) plasma science devices.

29. Workshop on Opportunities in Plasma Astrophysics—Hantao Ji

Hantao Ji discussed the report prepared by this grassroots organization and asked if the DPP would endorse the report. After his presentation, Tom Antonsen asked if the report could be used in his response to Michael Turner to highlight issues missed by the Decadal Study in Astrophysics. Amitava Bhattacharjee felt this would be inappropriate, as the report was not officially commissioned by a government agency.

30. Other New Business—Tom Antonsen

There was no new business. There was a brief final discussion of the letter to Steve Koonin.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.