

Minutes of the Fall 2012 DPP Executive Committee Meeting

The Westin Providence, Providence, Rhode Island

Sunday, October 28, 2012

Members and Officers Present: Cary Forest, Fred Skiff, Mark Koepke, Steve Allen, Karl Krushelnick, John Cary, Christine Coverdale, Fatima Ebrahimi, Catherine Fiore, Denise Hinkel, Hantao Ji, Steve Knowlton, Rajesh Maingi, Tom Mehlhorn, David Montgomery

DPP Administrator: Saralyn Stewart

Guests: Crystal Bailey, Lee Berry, Jim Drake (remote), Steve Eckstrand, Terri Gaier, Steve Gitomer (remote), Paul Miller, Mary Ann Sweeney, Greg Wallace

1. Welcome remarks

Cary Forest called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Introductions of attendees followed, along with an explanation of the agenda and the procedure for the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Executive Committee Meeting

Karl Krushelnick presented the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held on Saturday, March 31, 2012, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Motion: (Mehlhorn/Montgomery) To approve minutes of the Spring 2012 Executive Committee meeting. **Approved unanimously.**

3. Chair's Report

a. DPP Election Results.

Cary Forest reported the results of the DPP election. There were 704 electronic ballots and 9 paper ballots received. The new members of the Executive Committee are:

Ricardo Betti (University of Rochester)	Vice Chair (11/2016)
Fatima Ebrahimi (New Hampshire)	Member (11/2015)
Catherine Fiore (MIT)	Member (11/2015)
Gennady Shvets (University of Texas)	Member (11/2015)

The departing members of the Executive Committee were acknowledged. They are: Steve Allen, Past Chair (LLNL/GA), John Cary (University of Colorado), Denise Hinkel (LLNL), Hantao Ji (PPPL).

b. RFID Synopsis from Salt Lake City DPP meeting

The use of RFIDs to measure the interaction between APS and GEC conference participants in Salt Lake City was reasonably successful. Slightly more than 300 people participated although 800 RFIDS were available. There was a lower demand for this than anticipated. There are presently 3 papers in process of publication using the data from the conference.

In general, there was very good feedback from both DPP and GEC membership with regard to the co-location of the conferences in Salt Lake City and it is hoped that this could become a "semi-regular" event.

ACTION #1: Mark Koepke will contact the GEC executive committee and indicate that DPP will be happy to participate in co-location of DPP and GEC conferences in the future. Since DPP conferences are scheduled far in advance we anticipate that it will be mainly up to the GEC to determine the timing of such co-locations.

c. Early Career Award

David Montgomery spoke with regard to the possibility of a DPP early career award. There was an apparent need for such an award and similar successful awards already exist in APS, AAS, AGU and IEEE although not for plasma physics. There are 200 younger members of APS/DPP who could form a pool of candidates.

It is anticipated that such an award would consist of \$2000 plus Travel and Certificate costs. One criterion for the award would be that the winner must have completed his/her PhD less than 10 years before the nomination. The Executive Committee was generally positive about creating such an award.

Motion: (Ji/Allen) To formally establish a committee to determine the details of a new APS/DPP early career award in plasma physics. **Approved unanimously.**

The members of the committee are to be David Montgomery, Hantao Ji, Christine Coverdale and Cary Forest.

ACTION #2: The committee for the DPP Early Career award (David Montgomery, Hantao Ji, Christine Coverdale and Cary Forest) will develop a proposal for a new award to be submitted to the APS. This committee will determine the wording of the award, the proposed source of funding for this award and establish a name for the proposed award.

d. Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (letter attached)

The letter from Director of the DOE Office of Science, Dr. William Brinkman, to the FESAC was circulated. This requested a report from FESAC with regard to the funding of the domestic fusion program by mid-December. The DPP input to the activities of the FESAC with regard to this activity were discussed.

ACTION #3 Fred Skiff to circulate FESAC subcommittee report to the Executive Committee and co-ordinate a response from DPP.

e. The letter to John Holdren (Head of OSTP) from Robert Byer (President of the APS) with regard to ITER was also discussed (letter attached).

f. It was noted by Saralyn Stewart that the DPP still has 550 copies of "The Plasma Universe" remaining from the first printing. There are about 100 copies used each year.

ACTION #4 : Saralyn Stewart will contact Amitava Bhattacharjee regarding mechanisms for further print runs of "The Plasma Universe" book.

4. Action Items

Cary Forest went through the written list of Action Items from the Spring 2012 meeting.

1) Cary Forest, David Montgomery and Denise Hinkel will communicate to the DPP Executive Committee the proposed wording for an early career award before the next APS council meeting in Providence. **Done.** A committee to consider establishment of such an award has been formed.

2) Fred Skiff will modify wording on DPP web-site and E-news announcements about the Student Travel Grants so that "highly qualified" undergraduates are also included as being eligible for this award. **Done.**

3) Vincent Chan and Tom Mehlhorn will revise the present draft of the statement from the APS/DPP with regard to the funding situation for plasma physics at DOE Fusion Energy Sciences Division and circulate it to the rest of the executive committee for approval. **Done.**

4) Fred Skiff and Cary Forest will obtain logistical and cost information from APS regarding web streaming for the 2012 APS/DPP invited, review, and tutorial talks.

ACTION #5: Fred Skiff and Mark Koepke will obtain logistical and cost information from APS regarding web streaming for the 2013 APS/DPP plenary and tutorial talks.

5) Mark Koepke will investigate the possibility of posting classic plasma physics papers on the DPP web-site at the next APS publications committee meeting. He will also contact APS with regard to posting notices of new plasma physics textbooks on the DPP web-site.

ACTION #6: Mark Koepke will investigate the possibility of posting classic plasma physics papers on the DPP web-site at the next APS publications committee meeting. He will also contact APS with regard to posting notices of new plasma physics textbooks on the DPP web-site.

6) The APS/DPP Job Fair subcommittee will contact Crystal Bailey of APS in order to provide input on the planning for the 2012 Job Fair. **Done.**

7) Karl Krushelnick and Saralyn Stewart will examine the DPP web-site and contact the webmaster with a list of corrections/additions. **Done.**

8) Cary Forest will link results from the RFID study at the APS/DPP 2011 meeting in Salt Lake City to the DPP website.

ACTION #7: Cary Forest will link results from the RFID study at the APS/DPP 2011 meeting in Salt Lake City to the DPP website.

9) Karl Krushelnick will update the list of donors to the DPP outreach/education program on the DPP web-site. Prior to this he will ask the donors whether they wish to be listed on the website. **Done.**

10) Karl Krushelnick will contact Warren Mori of UCLA about the mechanism by which the UCLA contribution for the Dawson prize is paid. **Done.**

11) Saralyn Stewart will put descriptions of the DPP divisional awards on the DPP website. **Done.**

12) Saralyn Stewart/Karl Krushelnick will contact Brian Rosely with regard to the letter writing campaign at the APS/DPP conference 2012. **Done.**

13) Cary Forest will nominate a person from the Division of Plasma Physics to be a member of the search committee for a new editor of *Physical Review E*. New Editor has been appointed.

14) Fred Skiff will talk to Kate Kirby about ending the participation of the DPP in the April meeting. **Done.** DPP is no longer an official participant.

15) John Goree and Tom Mehlhorn will draft a letter for consideration by the Executive Committee to the president of the National Academy of Sciences with regard to the low representation of plasma physics within NAS. There was some discussion of this. It was

noted that previous attempts to address this issue have not been successful. It was also noted that a Chinese plasma physicist, Jie Zhang, was just appointed to the NAS in 2012.

5. Secretary-Treasurer Report (written report/slides attached)

Karl Krushelnick presented some powerpoint slides on the present state of the division finances. The DPP finances are basically healthy with an end-of-year 2011 DPP account balance of \$733,000. However it is likely that because of Hurricane Sandy and DOE travel restrictions that the 2012 meeting in Providence will lose money. In particular, it is likely that the conference will not fill the required number of rooms in the conference hotels and will pay a penalty.

He also presented information about the state of the divisional award accounts which are also healthy.

The DPP Unit quarterly counts were also presented (written report attached).

6. Ballot Statistics and History (written report attached)

7. 54th DPP Annual Meeting

The Program Chair, Fred Skiff, reported on the upcoming 54th divisional meeting. There were 1735 abstracts for the conference. There were also 1400 attendees preregistered and it is normal to expect about 300 on site registrations. However in this case attendance will depend on weather/ hurricane and consequent travel disruptions.

There was some discussion about late refund requests for registration fees for this Providence DPP conference caused by airport closures due to Hurricane Sandy. It was decided to wait to assess the impact of the hurricane before a decision is made on whether this will be possible.

The invited talks from the DPP conference will again be posted as pdf's on the *Physics of Plasmas* web-site. As in previous years there will be a mobile app containing the conference program which will be available for the various models of smart phone. In addition, there will be an opportunity for continue the letter writing campaign to Washington during the conference. There will be several computers set up in a central location for this purpose throughout the duration of the conference.

This year there will be 2 Mini-conferences to be held on the topics: "Flux Ropes and 3D dynamics" and "Nonlinear Effects in Geospace plasmas".

There will also be a University Fusion Association town meeting on Monday night at the conference.

8. Fellowship Committee Report (written report attached)

Mark Koepke briefly reported on the activities of the fellowship committee.

9. Education and Outreach Activities (written report attached)

Paul Miller reported on the Education and Outreach plans for the upcoming conference. There were more than 60 teachers who have signed up to attend the Teachers' Day which is to be held on Tuesday (which is also the expected arrival day for Hurricane Sandy). The goal for the Teachers' Day is 100 participants which has not been met in recent years. However the actual attendance this year will likely be affected by the weather. The Plasma Expo for school students will also be held as in previous years.

ACTION #8: Karl Krushelnick will send out an Education and Outreach announcement regarding fundraising in an upcoming APS/DPP newsletter.

10. Distinguished Lecturer in Plasma Physics (DLPP) Program (written report attached)

Mark Koepke has worked to re-establish the Distinguished Lecturer in Plasma Physics Program. Lecturers have been recruited for this and the first visits have started. The lecturers for 2012-2013 are:

Craig C. Petty, General Atomics, San Diego,
Troy Carter, University of California, Los Angeles,
Daniel Dubin, University of California, San Diego,
Steven Spangler, University of Iowa,
Clint Sprott, University of Wisconsin

11. Additional Committee Reports

- a. Nominating Committee (written report attached – John Sarff)
- b. Concerns of Junior Scientists (written report attached – Dylan Brennan)
- c. Women in Plasma Physics (written report attached – Mary Ann Sweeney)

In addition Mary Ann Sweeney discussed the statistics on female representation in plasma physics (part of the written report). She also provided further details of the Women in Plasma Physics Luncheon and the Child Care funding program which is available for attendees at the conference. She noted that the Child Care funding program was difficult to find on the conference web-site and that this should be changed for 2013.

- d. Landau-Spitzer Award

Fred Skiff reported on the award of the first Landau-Spitzer Prize at the 2012 EPS conference in Stockholm. This was awarded to Sergey Anisimov of the Landau Institute for Theoretical Physics in Russia. There was some question about whether the previous Landau-Spitzer Prize award committee procedures could be improved.

ACTION #9: Cary Forest will discuss the procedures of Landau-Spitzer award committee with EPS Plasma Physics Division Executive Committee.

- e. International Union of Pure and Applied Physics C-16 (written report attached – Robert Merlino). A new member from APS is needed for the IUPAP committee on ITER.

12. Public Information Committee (written report attached – David Hill)

13. 2013 APS April Meeting

The date for the next APS April meeting is, April 13-16, 2013, in Denver, Colorado. There will be no formal participation by DPP in the April meeting although the next Executive Committee meeting will be held during that meeting in Denver.

14. 2013 Annual DPP Meeting in Denver, Colorado (Nov 11-15, 2013)

Mark Koepke reported that the local arrangements chair is Zoltan Strenovsky (UC Boulder). The program committee for this conference has been established.

15. NRC Study on Space Sciences

James Van Dam of DOE reported via Skype and discussed the Decadal study for the NRC on Space Sciences. A statement of support from the DPP for a multi-agency partnership in space science/laboratory astrophysics was discussed by the Committee. In particular this would include support for mid-scale projects/missions.

ACTION #10: Cary Forest, Mark Koepke, Hantao Ji will draft a letter of endorsement of a multi-agency partnership in laboratory astrophysics to NSF, NASA, and DOE.

16. DOE Fusion Energy Sciences Report (written report attached)

Steve Eckstrand reported. He was hopeful that the domestic fusion program would not be cut more in coming years, even though the US contribution to the ITER budget was scheduled to increase significantly in the near future.

Cary Forest asked about DOE support for plasma physics conferences. Steve Eckstrand reported that 450 people from DOE labs were attending the DPP conference and that labs were operating on budget restrictions. It was possible that there would be a change of policy on travel restrictions for next year, in particular, a mechanism could be established so that meetings with long track records might have fewer constraints.

17. NSF Plasma Science Report

Steve Gitomer reported about the status of plasma physics funding at NSF and described the variety of plasma science projects supported. He also discussed the new CREATIV initiative to promote funding of interdisciplinary research at NSF.

18. APS Careers and Professional Development

Crystal Bailey reported about the Job Fair to be held this year at the DPP meeting and which will be run by the APS. She also organizes undergraduate related events, acts as an information center for graduate programs and provides career workshops

For the upcoming DPP conference there are about 80 job seekers. Several employers (mainly national labs) have signed up for booths and others who have posted jobs and are in attendance at the conference.

She informed the Executive Committee about the APS Committee on Career and Professional Development which tries to make APS relevant to industry. There is a Careers section on the APS web-site. In particular the APS has an online Jobs Board which is useful for job-seekers and which is self-supporting. It was agreed that there should be a direct link to this from the DPP web-site.

19. APS Meetings Department

Terri Gaier reported on the planned sites for upcoming meetings and the potential sites for the meeting in 2017.

Future Meeting Sites and DPP Room Block

DPP 2013 (*November 11-15, Denver, Colorado*)

DPP 2014 (*October 27-31, New Orleans, Louisiana*)

DPP 2015 (*November 16-20, Savannah, Georgia*)

DPP 2016 (*October 31-November 4, San Jose, California*)

Several possibilities for the 2017 meeting were discussed and Terri Gaier reported the results of her initial investigation; Nashville TN (no space); Madison WI (not enough space); Boston MA (no space); Knoxville TN (possible); Branson MO (possible).

The executive committee requested further cost/space info with regard to Austin TX, San Antonio TX, Portland ME, Portland OR and Milwaukee WI.

Motion: (Chan/Ji) That the remainder of the costs of the participation of Sherwood meeting in the APS April meeting (i.e., \$1,031.68) be paid to Sherwood from the Plasma Physics Division account. **Passed unanimously.**

20. Coalition for Plasma Science Activities (written report submitted–Lee Berry)

Lee Berry added some additional comments to his written report with regard to the activities of the Coalition for Plasma Science. The Science Fair will be held on Tuesday afternoon during the upcoming conference. He will send a letter to the DPP treasurer requesting a contribution of \$5000 for the CPS.

Motion: (Montgomery/Mehlhorn) That the Division of Plasma Physics make a \$5000 contribution to the Coalition for Plasma Science. **Passed unanimously.**

23. Other New Business

There was no new business put forward by the members of the Executive Committee.

24. Date for 2013 Spring Executive Committee Meeting

Cary Forest indicated that the date and time for the next Executive Committee meeting was to be Saturday, April 13, Denver, Colorado (*start time 10:00 am*).

25. Adjourn

Motion: (Mehlhorn/Forest) That the Executive Committee meeting be adjourned.
Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:52 pm.

ACTION ITEMS

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