

Minutes of 2002 Spring DPP Executive Committee Meeting

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sunday, April 20, 2002

Members Present: Vincent Chan, Melissa Douglas, Peter Gary, David Hammer, Richard Hazeltine, Martin Lampe, Mike Mauel, Warren Mori, Bill Nevins, Cliff Surko

Members Absent: Allen Boozer, Bruce Cohen, Martin Peng, Richard Petrasso, Mike Zarnstorff

Guests: Donna Baudrau, Lee Berry, Alan Chodos, Judy Franz, David Harris, Darlene Logan, Tom McIlrath, Gerald Navratil, Ben Stein

DPP Administrator: S. Stewart

The meeting was called to order at 10:55 AM by Martin Lampe.

Opening Remarks (Lampe)

Martin Lampe noted that this year's Sherwood Theory Conference coincided with the APS April Meeting and the DPP Executive Committee Meeting. The ExCom has to watch out for such conflicts when endorsing meetings in the future.

Review of Action Items from Last Meeting and Endorsement of Future Meetings (Lampe)

The ad hoc committee (Chan, Mauel, Cary and Stewart) will present a proposal for DPP website improvement at the Fall ExCom meeting. Saralyn Stewart will continue to update the schedule for posting key information on the website.

Rule changes for the doctoral thesis award will be combined with the recommendation for renaming the award for submittal to APS for approval.

Mike Mauel will replace Martin Lampe as the responsible person for gathering and distributing information on faculty openings and awards, and publicize them on the DPP website.

Next year's APS April Meeting will be on April 5-8, 2003 and the Sherwood Theory Conference is scheduled for April 28-30, so they will not be in conflict.

Motion (Gary/Mori): To endorse the Sherwood Theory Conference for 2003.

Action: passed.

Approval of the Minutes of the Fall Executive Committee (Chan)

Motion (Hazeltine/Gary): To approve the minutes of the Fall ExCom

Action: Passed.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report (Chan)

General Atomics has made payment for the 2001 Maxwell Prize.

Action Item: Vincent Chan will make sure that the GA Maxwell Prize sponsorship letter is on file.

DPP announcements now come with custom subject titles.

As of March 31, 2002, DPP has retained earnings of \$298,349 and current period loss of (\$13,985), for a total net asset of \$284,364.

A proposed budget for DPP02 was presented for discussion. The ExCom felt that the Women in Plasma Physics reception and provision of Internet access for laptops are both useful functions and should be continued. The DPP was charged \$5k for the newsroom furnishings at Long Beach. The ExCom agreed we should not pay any additional fee for the newsroom in future meetings.

Action Item: Mike Mauel will conduct an evaluation of the placement center at the DPP02.

For DPP02, Vincent Chan proposed to increase the registration fee by \$20 for members and non-members, and \$10 for retirees/students/unemployed.

Motion (Hazeltine/Mauel): To approve the proposed budget and registration fees for DPP02.

Action: passed.

Councilor's Report (Hazeltime)

A draft report on the Missile Defense Initiative has been prepared (panel chaired by Dan Kleppner, MIT) and should be released soon.

The APS had a 3% decrease in subscriptions to journals, paced by a decline in institutional subscriptions. A 25% increase in journal fees is planned. The return on investment for APS has also declined.

The APS is instituting a permanent advisory committee to make sure the prizes and awards are administered properly. New prizes and awards will have to be approved by this permanent committee. The proposal to increase the monetary award of all prizes to \$10k was objected to by a number of divisions. The new rule is new prizes will be \$10k, and existing prizes are strongly urged to increase to \$10k, but it is not mandatory.

Unit awards are now officially acknowledged. The DPP Weimer Award has been approved. APS will make sure it is administered properly. The DPP has informed APS its intent to make the Weimer Award an APS award in the future.

Snowmass Update (Navratil)

The schedule for the U.S. plan for burning plasma experiment recommendations has been moved up. Stewart Prager (Wisconsin) is the chair of the FESAC Burning Plasma Strategy Panel, that will meet in August to make recommendations to the FESAC regarding U.S. actions for burning plasma experiments. The chair for the NRC panel, which will meet later in the year to evaluate the science of burning plasma experiments, has not been decided. There is some concern that the NRC report might come too late, but it may be better to give NRC sufficient time to do its job.

A community issues working group has been formed for the Snowmass meeting to coordinate non-technical issues. Press conferences and opportunities to interact with the press, NRC, and FESAC will be available at the meeting. A website has been set up: <http://web.gat.com.snowmass>.

Coalition for Plasma Science Report (Berry)

Because of difficulty in booking a site for the congressional staff information luncheon, the earliest possible date is spring 2003. A 2-page plasma brochure has been prepared and distributed to high school teachers.

CPS needs help in the production of teaching aid packages useful for schools. There is a lack of appropriate sources and the cost is high. Mentors are listed on the CPS website: www.plasmacoalition.org/index.html. Ideas are welcome. More volunteers are welcome, especially people who are in mid-career.

On-going contributions from DPP, ANS and IEEE provide CPS with half of its support. The rest comes from corporate contributions and in-kind contributions.

APS Meeting Department Report (Baudrau)

A site visit to the DPP02 conference site in Orlando is planned for May. The contract with the Orlando conference hotel is 85% room block commitment. The attrition penalty will kick in if we fall below that. To reduce costs for students, a roommate bulletin board has been set up on the APS meeting website.

The conference hotel in Orlando will provide the meeting facilities without additional charge, but DPP may have to pay for the plasma expo facility.

Donna Baudrau has checked into the conference cancellation insurance. It will not cover terrorist acts unless they are within 100 miles of the conference. It also does not cover strikes and attrition, but will cover riots, fires, hurricanes, blizzards and earthquakes. The cost of cancellation insurance is \$5k-\$10k.

The 2002 APS Meeting in Albuquerque is filling all the rooms blocked. The ExCom debated whether we should reduce the room block in Orlando and pick up the costs for use of the meeting facilities. The opinions were divided and no action was taken.

Action Item: For the 2006 DPP Meeting, the ExCom has instructed Donna Baudrau to negotiate with Philadelphia to reduce the room rate in exchange for DPP picking up the costs for the meeting facilities.

The back-up site is Pittsburgh. Donna will report to Martin Lampe the result of the negotiation, and Martin will seek ExCom approval via email.

APS Executive Officer's Report (Franz)

The APS executive office fully endorses a bigger presence for DPP at the April Meeting and will work with DPP to accommodate its needs.

The APS has been increasingly subsidizing additional costs such as DPP web page support and DPP membership drives, out of the APS budget. The APS is seeking ways to make up for that cost, and is asking for feedback from the divisions. Currently \$5 out of the \$6 divisional membership dues is going to DPP. Motion (Hazeltime/Gary): DPP would prefer that APS adopt a solution to increase the divisional dues to compensate for the additional activity costs.

Action: Passed.

Plasma Physics Representation in NAS/NAE (Lampe)

Martin Lampe has submitted a report, which points to several critical problems.

The plasma physics members in NAS are generally over 70 years old. They are distributed over several categories so there is no single strong block. In principle they can form a temporary nominating group, but it will require a volunteer to chair the group and push it through. Possible candidates to take that on are Roy Gould, Ken Fowler, and Andy Sessler.

There is also a structural problem concerning how to build a strong list of candidates for NAS/NAE considerations. The Maxwell Prize winners are logical candidates but most of them are also over 70 years old. Forming a list of potential candidates including the Excellence in Plasma Physics and the Maxwell Prize recipients might be a good start.

Proposal for DPP Participation in the APS April Meeting (Lampe)

In discussion with Judy Franz, Martin Lampe expressed a desire to have more plasma physics invited talks at the April APS Meeting. Judy Franz is receptive to that, therefore DPP will have two invited talk sessions next year (2003, a transitional year). The papers will be selected by Dave Hammer, the incoming DPP program chair, and a subcommittee of the April 2002 Meeting. One of their mandates is to actively seek junior rising stars to give talks in April 2003.

To get more plasma physics participants, Martin has initiated discussions with the Sherwood ExCom, proposing a Sherwood meeting as a meeting within the April APS meeting. Judy is agreeable to work with us to accommodate more plasma physics visibility at the April meeting. Jim Drake will make a presentation to the Sherwood ExCom at Rochester. Martin has also approached the TTF ExCom, as well as getting support from the big programs at PPPL, GA, MIT, and so on. An optimistic scenario would have 3 Sherwood invited sessions, 2 DPP invited sessions and 1/2 DAP invited session.

Motion (Hazeltime/Gary): To approve the procedure proposed by Martin Lampe to enhance DPP participation in the April APS Meeting, with the modification that the incoming Vice-Chair (elected fall 2002, for 2003) will form an invited speaker selection committee in May each year that will include members from the current year's existing program committee (2003), for the following year's April Meeting (2004). This committee will solicit input from the DPP community via email.

Action: Passed.

Education, Outreach and Physics Support

Don Correll has requested approval of a letter for fund raising. Martin Lampe suggested minor changes, and no approval is required.

Mike Mauel led a discussion on updating the plasma physics brochure. He noted that support and interest in plasma physics is growing, hence DPP should actively promote plasma physics to take advantage of current interest. Mike proposed that the new brochure be different from the present one, and complement other plasma physics brochures. Using the new brochure from the Division of Particles and Fields as a guide, he suggested picking four major areas in plasma physics in support of fusion science, with focus on physics and technology challenges. The brochure will explain potential next steps. It will talk about plasma physics but will show how fusion contributes to solving challenges. DPP should get professional designers/writers involved. A committee of 3-4 members will be formed to gather technical content. A proposed schedule is to prepare and submit to the DPP ExCom a draft concept by August, and have a budget and plan by September. A draft of the brochure will be presented to the DPP ExCom in November, and final production will be done this winter. It was suggested by some ExCom members that in discussing future directions, we should cover broad aspects of plasma physics.

Motion (Hazeltime/Gary): The DPP ExCom thanks Mike Mauel for his effort. The ExCom supports Mike's proposed schedule and urges him to cover broad areas of plasma physics.

Action: Passed.

Motion (Hazeltime/Hammer): Move that Martin Lampe send a letter of thanks to Jim Drake for his successful effort to include plasma physics in the U.S. News and World Report ranking.

Action: Passed.

The plasma physics support letter that DPP sent to NSF was useful, but did not lead to increase funding. The budget for physics in NSF was reduced by 10%.

Plan of Action to Endow the Maxwell Prize (Logan/Chodos)

Darlene Logan from APS proposed a plan to endow the Prize. To raise the Prize to \$10k, DPP needs to embark on a fund raising campaign to endow the Maxwell Prize for \$250-\$300k, full endowment. The following actions should be taken:

Develop a one-page precise statement for fund raising accomplishments (Logan/Chodos to prepare draft for next ExCom).

Develop a fund raising committee (Lampe, plus other DPP members)

Develop a letter for soliciting support materials. For example, establish a 5-year pledge program with a general mail list, prepare prospect lists to start with lead pledge, develop strategy for DPP members to make personal calls, collect pledges.

The APS Development Office will assist with all of the following actions: assist with strategy, assist with development of a general mail list, suggest support materials, orchestrate mailing, and maintain contact with sponsors over a 2-year period.

Past statistics showed half of the donations came from institutions and half from individuals. A campaign usually runs from 2-5 years.

Action Item: Richard Hazeltime will find out from OFES whether government laboratories can be major sponsors.

Action Item: ExCom should email Martin Lampe with who would be best to serve on the committee.

Proposal for Nicholson Medal (Chodos)

The Forum on Physics and Society (FPS) has made a proposal to take on the responsibility of the Nicholson Medal Award. This is consistent with the proposed duration for the Medal when it was first set up, which states that should the Medal be extended beyond the first 5 year period (and it has), the Chair of DPP will relinquish the role of advisor to the President of APS in picking the selection committee. This function will henceforth be performed by the Chair of the FPS.

Motion (Surko/Hazeltime): Move that DPP endorses the transfer of the Nicholson Medal administration to the President of APS together with the FPS, starting January 2003.

Action: Passed.

AIP Media Services (Stein/Harris)

Ben Stein from AIP Media Services and David Harris from APS Public Information joined the ExCom meeting to propose a plan for future meeting media coverage, in response to Vincent Chan's request to reduce the fees charged by AIP. Ben Stein noted that AIP Media Services spent about 80 hours last year to assist DPP01 press releases and charged DPP \$5000 for the service. He proposed to reduce the cost to \$2.5k by involving the assistance of David Harris whose service is free. They also suggested DPP consider year round releases through Phys. News, Physics Tips and Phys. Rev. Focus, all published by AIP. In response to the DPP Public Information Committee's concern that the suggested format for news releases of one paragraph may be too short, they agreed to expand it to one page with photos. Also, DPP should maintain control of article selection with advice from AIP/APS. It is requested that examples of the new format for the press releases be made available for future writers to model after.

Action Item: John Cary will write the guidelines for preparing the press releases to post on the DPP website.

Motion (Hazeltime/Mori): Move that DPP approve the procedures outlined by Ben Stein and David Harris.

Action: Passed.

APS Financial Report (McIlrath)

Tom McIlrath noted that APS income from reserve was not sufficient to cover expenses. A shortfall for operating expenses of \$3M was incurred. Most meetings broke-even but the April Meeting has consistently

lost money. \$2.5M was spent on outreach/education. The profit margin for journals will have to be increased to cover the shortfall. The usefulness of a virtual journal is being evaluated.

Prize and Awards Reports

Mike Mauel expressed surprise and concern that only 3 new theses were submitted for the Doctoral Thesis Award. It is recommended that a separate email announcement for nomination solicitation be sent to DPP members in the future.

General Atomics, which has fully endowed the Doctoral Thesis Award, proposed that the award be renamed as the Marshal N. Rosenbluth Doctoral Thesis Award, in recognition of the significant contributions by Professor Rosenbluth to the education of generations of young plasma physicists. Motion (Chan/Mauel): Move to endorse changing the doctoral thesis award name to the Marshall N. Rosenbluth Doctoral Thesis Award in Plasma Physics.

Action: Passed.

Amanda Hubbard submitted a written report for the Doctoral Thesis Committee, which included some suggestions for clarification of the rules and eligibility.

Motion (Hazeltine/Mauel): Only candidates who have successfully defended their theses are eligible for consideration for the Doctoral Thesis Award.

Action: Passed.

Melissa Douglas brought up for discussion the idea of adding a \$100 monetary award to the undergraduate poster award. The discussion focused on what is the message? And does \$100 make any difference?

Motion (Hazeltine/Hammer): Move to add \$100 monetary award to the undergraduate poster award.

Action: Passed.

DPP 2002 Activities (Lampe)

Mike Mauel commented that Dale Meade did a great job in organizing the plasma physics sessions for this APS April Meeting. All the DPP requests were accommodated.

A topic for the mini-conferences in DPP02 will be singularity formation in fluids in astrophysical plasmas. LCD will be provided for mini-conference half-hour talks.

Committee Reports

The Weimer Award selection committee is in place with Gail Glendinning as the chair and four other members (Joel Fajans, Richard Hazeltine, Bill Tang, Cha-Mei Tang).

Dave Hammer reported for the Fellowship Committee. There were 28 carried-over nominations and 29 new nominations, including 5 women on the list. The committee notes the need to identify qualified candidates from smaller institutions that don't routinely prepare nominations, and make sure that those people are nominated.

Next ExCom Meeting

Starting at 10:00 AM, Sunday, November 10, 2002 at the Rosen Center Hotel, Orlando, Florida.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Vincent Chan, DPP Secretary/Treasurer