

**Draft prepared May 5, 2003 by V. Chan**

**Minutes of 2003 Spring DPP Executive Committee Meeting**

Marriott Courtyard Downtown Hotel, Philadelphia, PA  
Saturday, April 5, 2003

**Members Present:** Mike Mauel, David Hammer, Jill Dahlburg, Martin Lampe, Vincent Chan, Jim Drake, Bruce Cohen, Melissa Douglas, Bill Heidbrink, Cliff Surko, Mike Zarnstorff

**Members Absent:** Amitava Bhattacharjee, Warren Mori, Bill Nevins, David Newman

**Guests:** Donna Baudrau, Martin Blume, Judy Franz, Rick Lee, Tom McIlrath, John Willis, Mike Lubell

**DPP Administrator:** S. Stewart

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Mike Mauel called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Vincent Chan clarified a statement in the Fall 2002 minutes regarding fellowship rules. There were no other comments on the minutes.

Motion (Chan/Surko): Move to approve the minutes of the Fall 2003 ExCom Meeting  
Action: Passed.

**Chair's Report and Review of Action Items (Mauel)**

Mike Mauel began with some comments on the state of plasma physics. This is an exciting period for fusion and plasma physics with the U.S. President and high-level officials explicitly supporting fusion energy, and the community coming out of the Snowmass summer workshop with strong endorsement to proceed with a burning plasma experiment, which is strongly echoed in a FESAC report. NSF will soon announce the first frontier center for plasma physics and OFES is preparing to announce opportunities for frontier centers. NRC also acknowledges opportunities in high energy density plasma physics, which is a change from its previous report on the subject. Graduate student applications are way up. A note of thanks is due to Donna Baudrau for her effort in renegotiating the meeting hotel contracts.

Jim Drake commented that posting of job openings on the DPP website may not be useful in helping people looking for jobs because of the time delay. There is general agreement and the action is tabled.

Mike Mauel reported that the placement center appears to be very successful and is approaching self-sufficiency in balancing revenue and expenses. Dave Hammer has received favorable feedback and suggested expanding the operation by another day.

Action Item: V. Chan will work with Ed Goldin at AIP to shift the placement center operation to Tuesday-Thursday and also make the dates known to the members very clearly.

Drake suggests looking into allowing new Ph.D. recipients to put their theses on the DPP website.

Motion (Surko/Lampe): Move that the DPP ExCom Meeting agenda be sent out 10 days before the meeting  
Action: Passed

Maxwell Prize Endowment- Mike Mauel is committed to get this going during his term. APS will give advice and take on substantial administrative work.

National Academy of Sciences plasma physics representation - Martin Lampe reported that Ken Fowler is working with other NAS plasma physics members to get special nominations in place.

Drafting letter in support of ONR Plasma Physics Program - Mike Mauel has drafted a letter but did not send it out. C. Surko suggested postponing the letter for a future opportunity. J. Dahlburg commented the

letter should cite contributions to ONR technology in the past and how it can continue to contribute in the future. J. Drake suggested someone in the ONR culture should craft the letter. M. Lampe cautioned ONR would not be receptive to being told by a professional society what it should do.

Motion (Mauel/Surko): Move not to send the letter to ONR at this time.

Action: Passed

### **Secretary-Treasurer's Report (Chan)**

As of February 28, 2003, DPP has retained earnings of \$380,809 and current earnings/(loss) of (\$27,648) for a total net asset of \$353,161. Subtracting outstanding invoices, DPP reserve has a projected increase of approximately \$50,000, largely from savings of facility fees at DPP2002.

The financial forecast and a budget were presented to the ExCom for discussion. APS meetings have begun providing LCD for contributed talks. DPP will see how it works out before making a decision.

Motion (Surko/Dahlburg): Move that wireless access be provided at DPP2003.

Action: Passed

Motion (Surko/Cohen): Move to approve the proposed budget and registration fees for DPP 2003. There will be an increase of \$70 for members and non-members to cover facility costs re-negotiated with the headquarter hotel in exchange for reduced room rates.

Action: Passed

Motion (Drake/Cohen): Move to increase registration fee for students/retired members/unemployed members to \$100.

Action: Passed with two opposed.

Vincent Chan noted that the DPP by-laws have become outdated and are in need of a revision.

Motion (Chan/Lampe): Move to set up a small committee to review and update DPP by-laws.

Action: Passed

Action Item: A committee consisting of Chan (chair), B. Cohen, M. Zarnstorff and S. Stewart will review and update the by-laws, and submit the revisions to the ExCom for comments by email. After that, the revisions will have to be approved by the DPP membership, followed by the approval of DPP ExCom and the APS Council in November. The committee should prepare the revisions within the next few weeks.

### **Councilor's Report (Drake)**

The APS council unanimously passed a statement on visa rules and government procedures that are having a significant impact on foreign scholars visiting the U.S. APS is in the process of discussing this issue with Congress.

The missile defense initiative report has been delayed again. The new date of release is in May.

A statement has been passed on the creation and termination of topical groups. The minimum size is 300 members with some leeway for making up a slight deficit. Tom McIraeth added that if a topical group membership drops below 300, it becomes "inactive", which means it cannot nominate fellows, but it can still run meetings. The astrophysical plasma topical group has 255 members at present hence falls in the marginal category. DPP should help boost this group's membership.

A group called Alliance for S&T Research in America is working on producing a statement for each state on the importance of S&T for that state.

APS is launching a writing campaign to Congress for support of physical science in the March and April Meeting. The result from the March Meeting is very encouraging. The idea of organizing a similar campaign at the DPP meeting was discussed and there is agreement that an electronic campaign is the

preferred media. M. Lampe noted APS has not been pushing for increasing research funding for DOD programs. J. Drake can make a case at the APS council meeting but will need help.

Action Item: Mauel and Hammer will set up electronic writing campaign at DPP 2003.

Action Item: Dahlburg and Lampe will work with Drake to bring to APS' attention the need to promote DOD scientific research funding.

2005 will be the World Year of Physics in celebration of the centennial of Einstein's three famous papers. DPP will be approached by APS to discuss involvement.

### **Endorsement of Meetings**

Motion (Surko/Lampe): Move to endorse Sherwood Meeting April 26-28, 2004, 15th Topical Conference on High Temperature Plasma Diagnostics April 19-22, 2004, and 18th International Conference on Numerical Simulation of Plasmas September 7-10, 2003.

Action: Passed

Sherwood participation in the APS 2005 April Meeting - M. Lampe reported that M. Carter, Sherwood ExCom chair, is enthusiastic about participation in the April APS Meeting in 2005. If space is not available, it might have to be delayed to 2006. The astrophysical plasma topical group is interested in joining and J. Drake will work on the high-energy astrophysics theory group to join as well. Anne Davies, OFES Associate Director, has agreed to provide \$5K to subsidize Sherwood's participation with APS in 2005. John Willis will convey message to OFES.

### **Committee Reports**

Student Poster Award - M. Douglas reported at DPP2002 38 posters were judged by the committee and four awards were given. Each award included a plaque, free banquet tickets, seating at a special table of honor and the winner's name announced. This was very well received.

Action Item: Mauel will work with Douglas to identify a new chairperson to replace Douglas on the Student Poster Award Committee; Douglas is finishing her term on the ExCom this November.

Maxwell Prize - Lampe reported for W. Manheimer. There were 17 nominations but only three were experimentalists. This is a continuing problem, which should be addressed. The fact that the Maxwell Prize can be shared is not well known.

Coalition for Plasma Science - Lee Berry is stepping down as representative of CPS to DPP.

Action Item: Mauel will convey to Berry the excellent job CPS is doing.

Bill Dorland has agreed to chair the Public Information Committee. Mauel will ask Bill to help on the new Plasma Outreach Brochure. Mauel, Dorland, Lee and Zarnstorff will continue to work on this project.

### **Education, Outreach and Physics Support (Lee)**

Rick Lee is the new education and outreach subcommittee chair. He presented the proposed budget for E&O activities at DPP2003. Since part of the funding comes from donations, Rick is asked to draft a letter for the DPP chair to solicit donations from institutions and individuals.

Rick reported the new CPEP instruction source books will be distributed to teachers at the APS-DPP 2003 Teachers Day. The number of talks by distinguished lecturers so far this year is way below budget expectation. Some suggestions to Rick include making sure notices get to department chairs, making sure notices are more attractive, and sending emails to members in the department accompanying notice to the department asking for personal help to promote attendance.

Action Item: Mauel, Lee and Stewart will identify speakers, ways to solicit volunteers, and ways to give incentive to lecturers.

### **Annual Meeting Contracts and Future Meeting Sites (Baudrau)**

Donna Baudrau will continue to work with Philadelphia Marriott to reduce room block, reduce room rate from \$180 to GSA + 25%, with DPP paying for the difference via facility rental fees, and negotiate a block of rooms for government rate.

Most city housing bureaus that did handle hotel reservations for large conferences now outsource the task to commercial outfits and a charge will be added for this service. Donna will negotiate to have \$2 per night added to the hotel charge to eliminate charging by the commercial outfit.

Action Item: For 2007 hotel proposal, Donna will provide information to the ExCom two weeks before the DPP fall ExCom meeting.

#### **DPP/APS Meetings (Hammer/Dahlburg)**

Dave Hammer reported that in this April Meeting, Sandia has agreed to release the neutron data for the z-pinch experiment. A news conference has been scheduled. As a trial, refreshments are being provided in the plasma physics invited sessions at the April Meeting to attract attendance.

Dave reported the format for the October DPP meeting would be the same as the last two years. The ExCom endorses scheduling a one-man show (Einstein, performed by Tom Shuch) on Sunday evening before the meeting for members and providing financial support to make up for any ticket shortfall.

Regarding having the same topical mini-conference year after year, the ExCom's guidance is to leave it up to the program chair to balance the pros and cons.

Action Item: Dave Hammer will walk through the Albuquerque meeting site with Noah Hershkowitz to address disability issues.

Jill Dahlburg reported that for DPP 2004, she plans to update the categories where appropriate. Nermin Uckan has agreed to be the local chairperson. The APS 2004 April Meeting will be in Denver, and she is soliciting suggestions for the themes of invited sessions.

#### **Improvement on DPP Website (Chan/Stewart)**

A website professional has been selected to work on updating the DPP website. Good progress is being made, and ExCom members will be asked for comments of the completed website before taking it live. The URL [www.apsdpp.org](http://www.apsdpp.org) has been purchased and donated to DPP by John Cary. The plan is to switch to that URL. DPP will explore with APS to add [www.aps.org/dpp](http://www.aps.org/dpp) to access the DPP website.

#### **APS Officers Report**

Judy Franz is pleased that Sherwood has plans to join an APS April Meeting. She expressed concerns about the science budget, in view of the many new proposals in the midst of flat budget. She remarked hearing some opposition to ITER from some scientists and was reminded by Mauel that the fusion community unanimously endorsed a burning plasma experiment at the 2002 Snowmass workshop.

Mike Lubell reported on the science funding environment in Congress. He expressed some frustration in his effort to promote science funding in DOD. He pointed to the flat budget in FY2003 and essentially flat budget in FY2004 as a strong motivation for writing campaign.

Martin Blume explained what actions APS publications are taking to deal with scientific misconducts. He requested DPP to publicize the ethics statement put out by APS.

Action Item: Peter Gary, now DPP publication committee chair, should work with APS in making ethics issues better publicized.

Tom McIlrath reported APS is doing well in controlling its spending but not doing so well in its investments. The present ratio of reserve/operating budget of 1.25 is of some concern.

#### **Next ExCom Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, October 26, 2003 at the DPP Fall Meeting at the Hyatt Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico starting at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

**Conference Call on Site Selection (Mauel)**

An ExCom conference called was held on July 30, 2003 to discuss the sites proposed by Donna Baudrau for 2007, 2008 and 2009. 11 ExCom members participated in the call.

Donna has successfully negotiated with a number of hotels to agree to offer their rooms at GSA and GSA+25% rate as stipulated by the DPP ExCom for future meetings. However, decisions have to be made and contracts signed asap. Via email discussion, before the conference call the ExCom has chosen to return to the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando,FL for 2007. There was some support for St Louis, but the Mark Adams Hotel does not have enough space to accommodate the science expo and having the expo far away is not desirable. The attractiveness of downtown Atlanta was a concern based on past meeting experience, but Donna pointed out Atlanta has significantly improved its downtown area.

Motion (Mauel/Zarnstorff): Move to accept Dallas for the 2008 DPP Meeting

Action: Passed with no objection

Motion (Drake/Cohen): Move to accept Atlanta for the 2009 DPP Meeting

Action: Passed with no objection

In the next ExCom Meeting, the committee will discuss and amend DPP guidelines to help Donna with site recommendations for future meetings.

Respectfully submitted by,

Vincent Chan  
DPP Secretary-Treasurer