

Minutes of 2008 Spring DPP Executive Committee Meeting
Hyatt Regency Riverfront Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri
Saturday, April 12, 2008

Members Present: Tom Antonsen, Amitava Bhattacharjee (second half), Troy Carter, Vincent Chan, David Hammer, Bill Heidbrink, Ian Hutchinson, Mark Kushner (second half), David Meyerhofer, Ed Synakowski, Francois Waelbroeck

Members Absent: Ron Cohen, Dan Dubin, Linda Sugiyama, Ellen Zweibel

DPP Administrator: Saralyn Stewart

Guests: Donna Baudrau, Alan Chodos, Steve Eckstrand, Judy Franz, Terri Gaier, Chuck Greenfield (by phone), Mike Lubell, Joe Serene

1. Welcome Remarks—Ian Hutchinson

Ian Hutchinson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Approval of the minutes of the Fall 2007 meeting was deferred until the evening session.

3. Chair's Report—Ian Hutchinson

Ian reviewed the status of Action Items from the Fall meeting.

- Ian invited the APS President, Arthur Bienenstock, to be Master of Ceremonies at the DPP banquet awards ceremony in Dallas. Arthur declined but the President Elect, Cherry Murray, accepted the invitation.
- Ian Hutchinson and Vincent Chan did **not** set up an ad hoc committee to explore how to fully endow the Maxwell Prize. This item was discussed later in the meeting.
- Ian Hutchinson has solicited ideas for the streamlining of the Maxwell Prize nomination process; this item was discussed later in the meeting.
- APS has allocated two representatives to the DPP on the April 2009 program committee: Tom Antonsen and Vincent Chan.
- Tom Antonsen, 2008 Fellowship Committee Chair, is in the process of informing the Fellowship Committee members about the rules prohibiting committee members from nominating candidates and requiring them to recuse themselves if they were a nominee's thesis advisor or if they are employed by the same institution.
- An ad hoc committee on DPP mini-conferences consisting of Bhattacharjee (chair), Antonsen, Dubin, and Waelbroeck did **not** meet as planned.
- Jill Foley and Tim Gray have agreed to serve as chair and vice chair, respectively, of the Committee on Concerns of Junior Scientists.
- Saralyn Stewart has **not** solicited suggestions from the DPP membership regarding redesign of the DPP website.
- Discussion of the DPP Distinguished Lecturers program will be deferred until later in the meeting.

- Steve Allen did **not** transfer \$15,000 from the DPP General account to the Katherine Weimer Award account; Bill Heidbrink has now done this.
- Vincent Chan and David Hammer investigated the sudden jump in membership of the Division of Fluid Dynamics. DFD did not do anything that DPP is not already doing.
- Saralyn Stewart plans to work with the 2008 DPP Nomination Committee to accelerate the process so that more members ultimately vote.

After discussion, Bill Heidbrink was instructed to sign the agreement with AIP for the Job Fair to be held at the Fall DPP annual meeting.

The APS-DPP endorses the 7th International Conference on Dense Z-pinchs to be held August 18-21, 2008.

Action item: Saralyn Stewart will communicate with APS to add the meeting to the website list of sponsored meetings. David Hammer will send Bill Heidbrink a message for email distribution to the membership.

Action item: Steve Eckstrand will ask Ray Fonck to explore the possibility of either Ray Orbach or Pat Dehmer speaking at the Fall DPP annual meeting and will relay the results of the conversation to Ian Hutchinson.

4. Secretary-Treasurer Report—Bill Heidbrink (written)

The Division is in good financial shape; total assets have increased steadily for several years. Membership declined slightly in 2008. We earned ~\$100K at the Orlando meeting.

Motion (Heidbrink/Hammer): Allocate up to \$5,000 to the Committee on Women in Plasma Physics (WIPP) to subsidize their events at the Fall DPP annual meeting. They will be asked to prepare a budget for approval by the Officers by the middle of May. Passed unanimously.

Motion (Hammer/Meyerhofer): Encourage APS to host a letter-writing campaign to Congress (and possibly) the new Administration at the Fall DPP annual meeting. Passed unanimously.

In discussion, it was agreed that the officers would vet the proposed letters prior to the meeting and that information would be included at Registration encouraging participation.

Action item: Arrange to set up computer stations at the Fall DPP annual meeting for a letter-writing campaign.

5. APS Reports—Judy Franz, Joe Serene, and Mike Lubell

Judy Franz announced that she will be retiring April 2009. She is pleased by the attendance at this APS April meeting and expressed her appreciation to DPP for linking the HEDP/HEDLP meeting with this conference. The Sherwood meeting will be linked to the “April” 2009 meeting (actually in May). The “April” 2010 meeting will actually

be held in February in Washington, D.C. and will be joined by the American Association of Physics Teachers. As space at that venue is limited, no special effort to link with a DPP group is required in 2010.

Joe Serene reported that the APS operating budget is in good shape financially. Publications are currently profitable. He emphasized a potential vulnerability, however: much of the publication revenue comes from small (lower “tier”) institutions that pay less for their journal subscriptions. APS Council appointed a task force to look into journal pricing.

Mike Lubell gave a detailed report on the prospects for a supplemental bill in 2008 that will restore a portion of the funds that were cut in the 2008 omnibus bill.

6. APS Meetings Department—Donna Baudrau

Donna will be retiring at the end of 2010. She is mentoring Terri Gaier as her replacement.

After discussion, Donna was instructed to investigate Portland, Denver, New Orleans, and Austin as potential sites for the 2013 DPP meeting and will give her report in Dallas.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10 p.m., then reconvened at ~7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Fall Minutes

The minutes of the Fall 2007 Executive Committee meeting were approved subject to incorporation of minor amendments from Carter, Hutchinson, and Waelbroeck.

7. Prize and Awards Committee Reports

Written reports were received from Tom O’Neil (Rosenbluth award), Hutch Neilson (Maxwell prize), Uri Shumlak (Dawson award), Catherine Fiore (Weimer award) and were accepted without further discussion. It is recommended that the award procedures be modified for future years to require online electronic submission of nominations.

Endowment of the Maxwell prize was discussed.

Motion (Meyerhofer/Antonsen): The DPP will match one-for-one any funds raised to endow the Maxwell prize up to \$70,000. Passed unanimously.
Hutchinson and Chan will lead this effort.

Action item: Ian Hutchinson and Vincent Chan will send a message to the DPP membership requesting Maxwell Prize endowment sponsorship from members and corporations.

8. Councilor Report—David Hammer

David gave a short report. The educational outreach efforts of the APS to K-12 have expanded considerably by using science kits. The APS will be issuing policy recommendations concerning energy efficiency in the transportation and building sectors.

10. National Nuclear Security Administration—Hammer, Meyerhofer, Eckstrand

The current status of NNSA was discussed. Eckstrand reported on discussions between OFES and NNSA about a partnership in high-energy density physics patterned after the DOE/NSF partnership in basic plasma physics. The status of this initiative is currently unclear, however.

9. Department of Energy—Eckstrand

Steve Eckstrand reported that the U.S. ITER Project has been forced into a survival mode. The international ITER organization staffing level is now up to >250. The Department approved Critical Decision 1 (CD-1) for ITER in December 2007. CD-2 establishes the cost and schedule baseline for the project and is scheduled to be completed in FY2009-2010. The Office of Science is considering the recommendation of the Plasma 2010 Final Report. Announcements for two division director positions will be advertised soon as will three positions for physicist/engineer program managers.

11. Additional Committee Reports

A written report was submitted for the Publication Committee by Peter Gary. It was noted that Peter has been serving as chair for many years but, as he remains willing and energetic, there is no need to replace him. David Meyerhofer solicited magnetic fusion submissions to the *Reviews of Modern Physics*.

Tom Antonsen gave a brief verbal report on the Fellowship Committee. Electronic submission of nomination materials worked well. DPP received 33 new nominations and 12 deferred nominations for a total of 45 to be reviewed this year. Twelve of the 45 are foreign members and two are women.

Saralyn Stewart relayed a verbal report from Melissa Douglas on the Women in Plasma Physics Committee. The committee is encouraging nomination of women for invited and tutorial talks at the Fall DPP annual meeting and has discussed possible luncheon speakers. A request for childcare grants and a designated “family room” at the DPP meeting to facilitate attendance by mothers of young children stimulated much discussion.

Action item: Amitava Bhattacharjee will investigate a) childcare grants, b) a “family room” and c) providing information about childcare options during the DPP annual meeting. He will discuss his findings with Melissa Douglas and make a recommendation to the Officers.

Jill Foley submitted a written report on the Concerns of Junior Scientists Committee that was accepted without further discussion.

Fred Skiff submitted a written report on the Public Information Committee. His request for \$300 for editorial work was approved by consensus. David Meyerhofer asked how many articles resulted from the press releases but no one knew. Mark Kushner noted that a personal invitation to the meeting should be issued to the science writers of local media.

It was noted that tracking the resulting articles and personal invitations to local media should be part of the “Best Practices” for the committee.

Action item: Saralyn Stewart will ask Fred Skiff to add these suggestions to the committee’s Best Practices document: (1) invite local press to DPP annual meetings and (2) track which press releases result in published articles.

7b. Prizes and Awards—Alan Chodos

Alan Chodos answered several questions about the prizes and awards. He stated that nothing in the APS rules prevents electronic submissions.

Motion (Heidbrink/Meyerhofer): Nominations for the Maxwell, Dawson, Rosenbluth, and Weimer awards will be submitted electronically in pdf format. Passed unanimously.

Action item: Alan Chodos will update the website to conform to this new requirement provided new wording is sent by DPP.

Alan clarified that committee “alternates” should be notified of their role but do not participate in the committee’s deliberations unless a member of the committee is excused.

Alan confirmed that at least \$200K is needed to endow the Maxwell prize.

12. Education and Outreach—Chuck Greenfield

Via telephone, Chuck discussed his lengthy written report.

Action item: Chuck Greenfield will send Bill Heidbrink an announcement for distribution to the membership asking for participation in outreach activities at the Fall DPP annual meeting.

Bhattacharjee and Hutchinson noted that graduate students should be encouraged by their advisors to participate.

We discussed several ideas for an undergraduate reception. A venue for undergraduates to meet faculty from potential graduate programs is desirable.

Action item: Chuck Greenfield will select a venue and inform faculty and students.

Chuck presented his plans for reinvigorating the Distinguished Lecturer program. It was agreed by consensus that the Distinguished Lecturers will receive free DPP banquet tickets and will be recognized briefly by the Chair at the banquet.

Action item: Chuck will present a slate of proposed lecturers via email to the DPP Executive Committee for their approval.

On the solicitation of funds for outreach, Chuck asked if a mailing would be effective. After discussion, it was agreed that an email solicitation to the membership was appropriate and that “snail mail” letters to institutional donors should continue.

Action item: Chuck will draft both an email message to DPP members and a letter to mail to heads of facilities.

Motion (Kushner/Waelbroeck): That the Education and Outreach budget submitted by Greenfield be approved. Passed unanimously.

13. 50th DPP Annual Meeting—Amitava Bhattacharjee, Ian Hutchinson, Bill Heidbrink
Amitava discussed his written report. The plenary speakers have been selected and given guidance. Curt Supplee has begun writing the “Plasma Universe” commemorative book; contract negotiations with Cambridge University Press are nearly complete.

Amitava presented several ideas for special elements to celebrate the 50th anniversary. The board supported most of these but felt that the commemorative book was sufficient as a “take-away.” Amitava requested \$20K in discretionary funds. Ian Hutchinson noted that \$15K was allocated for the 2007 meeting; Bill Heidbrink observed that Ian spent <\$5K. Vincent Chan recalled that, originally, the \$15K discretionary fund combined allocations of \$5K for program and facilities, \$5K for travel grants, and \$5K for pure discretionary.

Motion (Hammer/Carter): Allocate \$15K for the program chair’s discretionary fund for the 2008 DPP annual meeting. Passed unanimously.

Ian Hutchinson led a discussion on the possibility of hiring the Galileo Players for the banquet entertainment.

Motion (Meyerhofer/Chan): Ian Hutchinson is authorized to a) investigate the feasibility of a performance by the Galileo Players and to b) spend up to \$20K on the performance.

Amendment (Waelbroeck/Bhattacharjee): No more than \$16K is authorized for the performance. Amendment defeated (3 for/7 against).

Original motion passed unanimously.

Bill Heidbrink summarized projected expenses for the DPP08 meeting. Although net income from the 2007 meeting was ~\$100K, projected expenses for the 2008 meeting exceed estimated revenues by ~\$10K due to the increased cost of the Dallas site and special expenses associated with the 50th anniversary celebration.

Motion (Meyerhofer/Kushner): The Registration Fees will be the same as in 2007; the cost of a banquet ticket will increase to \$40. Passed unanimously.

14. Proposal to co-locate the 2011 DPP meeting with the GEC—Kushner/Bhattacharjee

In introductory remarks, Amitava said that co-locating the Gaseous Electronics Conference (GEC) with the 2011 DPP meeting in Salt Lake could be mutually beneficial. This is the earliest available date, as the GEC is also planned several years in advance. Mark Kushner then went into more detail. He stated that the GEC has been linked with DAMOP but that coordination with the DPP might be more fruitful. Bill Heidbrink asked if the Salt Lake venue can accommodate 300-350 more attendees; it was observed that, even if the logistics in Salt Lake were unacceptable, if co-location is desirable, a subsequent year could be selected. Kushner informed us that the GEC is 3.5 days in duration and usually has two parallel sessions, with both oral talks and posters. Chan observed that GEC co-location could replace mini-conferences that year.

Motion: (Waelbroeck/Meyerhofer): Mark Kushner will explore co-location of the GEC with the 2011 Salt Lake DPP meeting. Passed unanimously.

Action item: Bill Heidbrink will ask Donna Baudrau if co-location at Salt Lake is feasible.

15. Co-location of HEDP with April 2008 APS meeting—Bhattacharjee

Amitava reported that the co-location had been a success from the standpoint of the APS and that he had received positive feedback from HEDP scientists. He commended Bruce Remington for a fine job as program chair.

16 Co-location of Sherwood with April 2009 APS meeting—Antonsen/Chan/Stewart/Bhattacharjee

Tom stated that Sherwood has agreed to co-locate with the April meeting again in 2009. The “April 2009” meeting is actually in May. It was noted that there will be two classes of invited talks with different deadlines: APS talks (earlier deadline) and Sherwood talks. Waelbroeck said that the Sherwood organization has inadequate reserves so it is important to Sherwood to realize a profit on the meeting. Bhattacharjee said that Sherwood may expect \$5K from DOE, \$8K from APS (from Sherwood’s share of the registration fee), and up to \$2K from the DPP.

Action item: Antonsen will submit a proposal to Curt Bolton of DOE for \$5K to support the 2009 Sherwood meeting.

Motion (Heidbrink/Meyerhofer): DPP allocate \$3K to Sherwood to facilitate co-location at the 2009 April APS meeting. Passed unanimously.

17. DPP Website Update—Stewart

Saralyn is soliciting ideas for the redesign of the Division’s website. The work is currently in progress.

Action item: Email time line to DPP ExCom regarding re-design schedule.

18. 2008 APS Unit Convocation and Capitol Hill Visit—Antonsen/Heidbrink

This topic was already covered under the letter writing campaign.

19. New Business—Hutchinson

Action item: At the request of Amitava Bhattacharjee, Ian Hutchinson will write a letter on behalf of the Division thanking the Provost of the University of New Hampshire for the gift of \$5,000 in support of the coffee table book entitled *The Plasma Universe*.

Amitava reported that *Physics Today* had declined to print John Greene's obituary. Bhattacharjee stated that, if John Greene does not qualify, no plasma theorist will.

Action item: Amitava will draft a letter protesting this decision (and a copy of the draft obituary) to the Officers for review prior to forwarding to *Physics Today*.

20. 2008 Fall Executive Committee Meeting—Hutchinson

Ian announced that our next meeting will be Sunday, November 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m..