

**Minutes of the Spring 2009 Executive Committee Meeting**  
Sheraton Downtown Denver Hotel, Denver, Colorado  
Saturday, May 2, 2009

**Members and Officers Present:** Steve Allen, Tom Antonsen, Amitava Bhattacharjee, Debbie Callahan, Troy Carter, Ron Cohen, Dan Dubin, David Hammer, Bill Heidbrink, Ian Hutchinson, Mark Kushner, John Sarff, Linda Sugiyama

**DPP Administrator:** Saralyn Stewart

**Guests:** Donna Baudrau, Curt Bolton, Alan Chodos, Melissa Douglas (remote), Judy Franz, Tim Gray, Terri Gaier, Rick Lee, Miklos Porkolab (remote), Joe Serene

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1. Welcome Remarks—Amitava Bhattacharjee

Amitava Bhattacharjee called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Introductions followed approval of the minutes.

2. Minutes of the Fall 2008 Meetings—Bill Heidbrink

In the Executive Committee minutes, Tom Antonsen recommended a change of wording under item #9 from “the venues in Portland are too distant” to “the distance between venues in Portland is too great.”

**Motion** (Hutchinson/Carter): That the amended minutes of the Fall 2008 Executive Committee meeting be approved. Passed unanimously.

**Motion** (Hammer/Kushner): That the minutes of the Fall 2008 Business Meeting be approved. Passed unanimously.

3. Chair’s Report—Amitava Bhattacharjee

Amitava reviewed the action items from the fall meeting.

1. As reported later in the meeting (agenda item #6d), Ian Hutchinson and Vincent Chan convened a committee that is pursuing full endowment of the Maxwell Prize. **Done.**
2. Amitava Bhattacharjee sent text to Alan Chodos concerning the prizes and awards that was posted on the APS website. **Done.**
3. Amitava Bhattacharjee did not successfully send material on the Rosenbluth dissertation award to APS for inclusion in the APS brochure about educational opportunities. It was noted that Ted Hodapp is the contact at APS for this information.

**Action Item #1:** David Hammer will send Amitava Bhattacharjee the URL of the APS educational brochure. Amitava will then send material to Ted Hodapp for inclusion.

4. Lee Berry did not work with Jill Foley to inform the Junior Scientists about the activities of the Coalition for Plasma Science. Lee did send an invoice to Bill Heidbrink requesting funds from DPP. **Partially Completed.**

**Action Item #2:** Tim Gray will contact Lee Berry in order to inform the junior scientists about the activities of the Coalition for Plasma Science.

5. The desirability of a venue where undergraduates can meet faculty from potential graduate programs was discussed in Dallas but no one was assigned responsibility for the event.

**Action Item #3:** Tom Antonsen will select a venue where undergraduates can meet faculty at the Atlanta meeting. He will also publicize the event.

6. Rick Lee did present a slate of six proposed distinguished lecturers to the DPP Executive Committee (agenda item 9b). **Done.**

7. Bill Heidbrink sent a letter to institutions requesting support for DPP outreach activities. **Done.**

8. Bill Heidbrink sent copies of all existing contracts to Saralyn Stewart. **Done.**

9. Melissa Douglas made a recommendation for childcare options in Atlanta (agenda item #7a). **Done.**

10. a) DOE has ordered copies of *The Plasma Universe*. **Done.** b) A decision to order copies for the Teachers Day workshops was made under agenda item #9.

**Action Item #4:** Amitava Bhattacharjee will work with Rick Lee to order copies of *The Plasma Universe* for use at the Teachers Day workshops.

11. Responsibilities for contacting the local media in Atlanta were clarified.

**Action Item #5a:** Rick Lee and Saralyn Stewart will send descriptions of the outreach events to Tom Antonsen.

**Action Item #5b:** Mark Kushner will send information about the public information office at Georgia Tech to Tom Antonsen.

**Action Item #5c:** Amitava Bhattacharjee will inform Earl Scime about the value of animations in press releases.

12. Melissa Douglas presented a proposal for activities at the Atlanta meeting (agenda item #7a). **Done.**

13. Bill Heidbrink prepared a budget for the Atlanta meeting and made recommendation for the registration fees (agenda item #4a). **Done.**

14. The DPP website is not complete yet but will be soon (agenda item #14). **In progress.**

15. Mark Kushner sent Curt Callan information about industrial plasmas. **Done.**

Next, Amitava reported on his efforts to get plasma physicists elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Although the process is confidential, Andy Sessler told Amitava that a qualified candidate is being considered this year. Amitava noted that plasma physicists are well represented in the space and astrophysical group. Mark Kushner observed that the prospects for election are higher in the National Academy of Engineering, especially for candidates with an industrial affiliation.

Proofs of *The Plasma Universe* have been received and are due back to the publisher on May 25. Curt Callan and Cherry Murray have agreed to write reviews for use on the cover. In August 2009 the University of New Hampshire will mail copies to attendees of the Dallas 2008 annual meeting. Permission to use some of the images in the book required payment of additional fees.

Amitava has attempted to invite leading Department of Energy officials to our Atlanta meeting. The effort is ongoing. He hopes to have a top administration official speak at a Town Hall meeting associated with the newly formed APS Topical Group on Energy.

Posting material from the Fall meeting on the DPP website was discussed next. For the unpublished 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary plenary talks, *The Physics of Plasmas* provided a link to the slides. Copyright issues complicate posting of slides for published talks. Troy Carter suggested that videos of selected talks be available on the website.

**Action Item 6a:** Tom Antonsen will contact the editors of *The Physics of Plasmas* to clarify the copyright issues of posting invited and review talks on the DPP website.

**Action Item 6b:** Amitava Bhattacharjee will relay the suggestion concerning video content to Earl Scime of the Public Information Committee for their consideration.

#### 4. Secretary-Treasurer Report—Bill Heidbrink

Bill explained his written report. Some numbers in the Treasurer's report seem erroneous. In particular, Ian Hutchinson noted that the Division's assets have grown substantially more rapidly than the reported net revenue from the annual meeting. Also, many of the numbers listed under the column "07 Actual" in the spreadsheet entitled "DPP 2008/2009 Comparison" appear incorrect. Terri Gaier later explained that the projected printing charges at the 2009 meeting should be \$2,000, not \$20,000.

**Motion** (Hutchinson/Cohen): That the Registration fees at the 2009 Atlanta meeting remain the same as the fees at the 2008 Dallas meeting. Passed unanimously.

The letter writing campaign, Contact Congress, will be conducted again at the Atlanta meeting.

**Action Item 7:** Bill Heidbrink will arrange writing Contact Congress letters at the 2009 Atlanta annual meeting with Brian Mosley of APS.

#### 5. Councilor Report—David Hammer

APS will establish a Topical Group on Energy soon. The group has a broad scope. Jill Dahlburg is serving on the organizing committee.

The APS is losing money supporting the divisions because graduate students do not pay full membership fees. Plans are being formulated to raise the Division fee \$1-2. By consensus, it was agreed that, if given the option, the Division will not increase its share of the fee. Other items briefly mentioned by David were discussed in more detail later (agenda item #15).

#### 6. Prize and Awards Committee Reports

The chairs of the Rosenbluth and Dawson Award committees and of the Maxwell Prize committee submitted written reports. Ian Hutchinson reported on his committee's efforts to endow the Maxwell Prize; he also submitted a written report. Darlene Logan of APS is tracking contributions. A link on the DPP website to facilitate contributions has been established. Letters to vendors related to ITER and to National Laboratory Directors have been sent but no responses have been received yet. Ron Cohen remarked that "moles" within each institution are needed to facilitate the effort; he described his efforts at Livermore, which included identifying past winners associated with the laboratory. Ian stated that a major solicitation of the DPP members will likely occur in the next few months.

A proposal to establish a Stix award for RF physics (to be given jointly with the European Physical Society) was discussed at length. Alan Chodos explained that a "prize" typically is for \$10K, while an award is typically \$5K (or less). He stated that the APS Council must approve all prizes and awards that carry the APS imprimatur. The Council considers three criteria. First, they consider overlap with existing awards and if the pool of potential recipients is sufficiently large. Second, they expect a financial plan that will ultimately result in endowment. Alan stated that sequestered funds by a division usually satisfies this criterion. Third, they examine the proposed selection procedure.

Miklos Porkolab presented the proposal. The idea for the joint award was initiated by the Europeans. They suggested it be named after Tom Stix, which Miklos appreciates. He feels it is an opportunity for closer cooperation and collaboration with the EPS. Although the prize could be awarded without APS approval, making it an APS award gives it greater stature.

Mark Kushner argued against the proposal. He is concerned that the selection will not be based solely on merit. Ron Cohen also argued against the proposal. He observed that there are many subfields of plasma physics. He asked, "Will we also have an MHD prize, an Edge Prize, etc.?" He noted that, although the cost of a single prize may be small, the aggregate of prizes for all comparable subspecialties would not be. Ian Hutchinson argued that the proposed prize was too narrow and suggested that, if the DPP wanted to support this prize, it could do so by contributing money towards the prize and act as a co-sponsor. Steve Allen observed that a joint award would promote the desirable outcome of closer ties with the EPS. Bill Heidbrink and Amitava Bhattacharjee argued that more prizes are desirable and that our division has less prizes than other divisions of

comparable size. Amitava also noted that the relatively narrow scope of the proposed award could be broadened. In the end, Amitava Bhattacharjee decided to appoint a committee to formulate a concrete proposal for consideration at the fall meeting.

**Action Item 8:** Amitava Bhattacharjee will appoint an ad hoc committee to discuss a joint EPS-APS Stix Award. The ad hoc committee will be comprised of DPP officers and the Past Chair.

### 7. Additional Committee Reports

Melissa Douglas summarized her written report. The Committee on Women in Plasma Physics recommends that the Division subsidize a Women in Plasma Physics Luncheon to be held on Monday in Atlanta. The cost to attend will be the same as in Dallas (2009): \$25 for regular members and \$10 for graduate and undergraduate students. The cost to the Division is approximately \$1,800. The Committee proposed replacing the reception with a two-member panel discussion on “Tools needed to survive in science” to be hosted jointly with the Committee on Concerns of Junior Scientists. The cost for the panel discussion is approximately \$3,500. Linda Sugiyama objected to elimination of the reception. Tim Gray (and others) argued that the reception missed the target audience and was dominated by older males consuming alcohol. Ultimately, the issue of the reception was referred back to the Committee on Women in Plasma Physics for further consideration.

**Motion** (Hutchinson/Carter): That the proposed budget for a luncheon and panel discussion at the 2009 Atlanta annual meeting be approved. Passed unanimously.

Next, Melissa presented her committee’s proposal concerning childcare. As documented in Jill Foley’s written report, the caregiver/child room was well received in Dallas (2009). The proposal is to provide approximately \$900 for food and beverages, eliminate the TV/DVD, and reuse the toys purchased last year (2008). The committee also proposes funding of child care grants, as is done for the March meeting. Linda Sugiyama recommended that these grants be offered to male caregivers as well as female caregivers. Sue Otwell at APS may administer these grants of \$400 each.

**Motion** (Kushner/Callahan): That the division equip a childcare room with food and beverages at the 2009 Atlanta annual meeting and fund up to ten \$400 childcare grants. Passed unanimously.

**Action Item 9:** Tom Antonsen will contact Sue Otwell at APS concerning administration of the childcare grants.

Tim Gray discussed his written report on the activities of the Committee on Concerns of Junior Scientists. In Atlanta, the Junior Scientists will co-sponsor the panel discussion on career survival skills. Tim also emphasized that many junior scientists want greater involvement in policy activities such as Fusion Day.

**Action Item 10a:** Tim Gray will send Mark Kushner a list of junior scientists who may be interested in lobbying during Fusion Day.

Steve Allen briefly summarized his Fellowship Committee report.

**Action Item 10b:** Steve Allen will update the Fellowship Committee's best practices.

Earl Scime submitted a written report on behalf of the Public Information Committee. David Meyerhofer submitted a written Nominating Committee report. They missed the opportunity to nominate plasma physicists for APS offices. The committee solicited suggestions from the DPP ExCom for the 2009 DPP elections.

Peter Gary submitted a detailed written report on the activities of the Publications Committee.

#### 8. U.S. Department of Energy—Curt Bolton

Ed Synakowski is the newly appointed Associate Director of the Office of Fusion Energy Science. Strategic planning meetings are underway. The magnetic fusion Research Needs Workshop (ReNeW) report is currently in progress. These will be followed by ReNeW reports for fusion-fission hybrid in September and for high energy density physics in December. When it was finally passed, the FY09 budget essentially contained the President's request with the exception of ITER, which was below the request but was sufficient for the 2009 fiscal year. The FY10 budget is expected soon. Funds from the stimulus package are starting to be disbursed. The new Secretary of Energy hopes to create a new young investigator program that will be an order of magnitude larger than the current program. Several Executive Committee members who work at universities remarked that the most effective way to encourage new faculty hiring in plasma physics is to subsidize tenure tract faculty positions for several years, as was done with a NIF professor position at UCLA. The Office of Fusion Energy Sciences will be encouraging National Science Campaigns on selected topics such as "Edge Physics in Tokamaks" with a planned duration of 3-4 years. The new appointees of the Obama administration are in place and appear to be heading for confirmation. An announcement of the recipients of the Plasma Science Center competition is expected shortly. Curt remarked that a document that persuasively presents progress in fusion research in the last ten years would be of great benefit.

**Action Item 11:** Amitava Bhattacharjee will send Curt Bolton material on scientific accomplishments in plasma physics over the last 10 years.

#### 9. Education and Outreach—Rick Lee

Rick discussed his written report. Approximately 100 teachers are expected at the Teachers Day in Atlanta (2009). Heather Lade of General Atomics is in charge of planning this year. The Plasma Science Expo expects to host 1500-2000 students. As they did in Dallas (2008), the committee plans to give approximately six undergraduate poster awards in Atlanta. Rick appealed for judges for this event. The proposed budget for these activities was accepted without a formal vote.

A follow-on workshop for teachers who attended the 2008 Dallas Teachers Day will be offered on May 16, 2009.

The Distinguished Lecturer program has had little activity during the past few years. Rick proposed a slate of six lecturers, pending confirmation of their willingness to serve for a minimum of one academic year.

**Motion** (Heidbrink/Sugiyama): That the proposed slate of A.M. Jacobs, Nikolas Logan, David Liu, Jens Von Der Linden, Brendan Lyons, and Jim Schroeder be approved. Passed unanimously.

**Action Item 12:** Rick Lee will prepare a Distinguished Lecturer Program flyer by August. Saralyn Stewart will send the flyer to APS to be mailed to university and college departmental chairs across the U.S.

#### 10. DPP 2009 Meeting Report—Tom Antonsen

**Action Item 13:** Tom Antonsen and Saralyn Stewart will send an announcement to the membership that the deadline for invited paper nominations is May 15.

Tom summarized his written report. The program committee is in place. One potential mini-conference is under discussion. One possible topic for a town meeting is the ReNeW strategic planning. Curt Bolton suggested that presentations on all three ReNeW reports be included. The possibility of a town meeting associated with the new Topical Group on Energy was also noted.

Amitava Bhattacharjee proposed that the Spellman Glee Club provide banquet entertainment this year. The cost is approximately \$3000. Feedback on the proposal was generally positive.

**Motion:** (Carter/Kushner): That Tom Antonsen be allocated up to \$15,000 in discretionary funds for the 2009 Atlanta annual meeting. Motion carried with one dissenting vote.

**Action Item 14:** Donna Baudrau and Terri Gaier will check that they are using the same budget categories for conference expenses as Michael Stephens (APS Accounting) uses.

#### 11. Colocation of DPP and the Gaseous Electronics Conference in 2011

Amitava Bhattacharjee and Mark Kushner submitted a written report. Donna Baudrau described the services APS is providing to the GEC. The format of the bulletin was discussed. A recommendation for separate bulletins that are packaged together was accepted by consensus.

**Action Item 15:** Mark Kushner will inform Bill Graham (GEC) that he needs to complete negotiations with the conference center and hotel by the end of May 2009.

12. 2009 April Meeting Report—Tom Antonsen

Tom briefly summarized his written report. The expected contribution from DOE for the Sherwood meeting was delayed; alternative arrangements are in progress. Otherwise, the expenses and revenues appear to be close to budget.

13. 2009 APS Unit Convocation—Tom Antonsen

Tom attended the APS Unit Convocation in College Park. Most of the material presented there was discussed under agenda item #15. Tom noted that the APS “April” Meeting next year will be in Washington DC in February 2010.

**Action Item 16:** Tom Antonsen will propose a venue and date for the 2010 Spring DPP Executive Committee meeting at the fall ExCom meeting.

14. DPP Website Update—Saralyn Stewart

Saralyn announced the staging URL for the newly designed website and repeated her request for feedback. Some content has already been transferred. The new website will replace the old one by the end of May 2009, with the help of the ExCom.

15. APS Reports—Judy Franz and Joe Serene

Judy Franz announced that her replacement has been selected. She mentioned the new Topical Group on Energy and stressed that one goal will be to encourage young people to undertake careers in the physics of energy. APS is partnering with the Optical Science (OSA) in LaserFest, a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invention of the laser. One event will coincide with the inauguration of NIF. She suggested that the 2009 Atlanta program include a session on lasers in plasma physics. Judy thanked us for encouraging colocalizing the 2009 Sherwood meeting with the 2009 APS April Meeting.

Joe Serene made a presentation on APS finances. Expenses and revenue were closely matched in 2008. The APS has approximately \$70 million in investments. Recent losses on the investments are typical for large diversified portfolios. The interest on reserves has been 6.5% but will be dropping to 5.5%. The cost of DPP membership will increase \$1. Publications is by far the most important category for APS finances, dwarfing the other categories by an order of magnitude.

16. APS Meetings Department—Donna Baudrau and Terri Gaier

Donna discussed colocation of the 2011 DPP meeting with the Gaseous Electronics Conference (see agenda item 11). She is not currently researching new conference venues for us but, if directed to do so in Atlanta, she will begin the search for our 2015 meeting.

17. Coalition for Plasma Science—Lee Berry

Lee submitted a written report.

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

Mark submitted a written report.



19. Other New Business

There was none.

20. Date for 2009 Fall Executive Committee Meeting—Amitava Bhattacharjee

Amitava announced that the next meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1, at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta.

21. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.