

Minutes of the Spring 2010 Executive Committee Meeting
American Center for Physics, College Park, Maryland
Saturday, April 17, 2010

Members and Officers Present: Steve Allen, Tom Antonsen, Amitava Bhattacharjee, Debbie Callahan, Troy Carter, John Cary, Cary Forest, David Hammer, Bill Heidbrink, Denise Hinkel, Hantao Ji, Mark Kushner, John Sarff

DPP Administrator: Saralyn Stewart

Guests: Donna Baudrau (remote), Alan Chodos, Steve Eckstrand, Christine Giaccone, Dan Kulp, Rick Lee, Mike Lubell, Gene Sprouse, Mary Ann Sweeney

1. Welcome Remarks—Tom Antonsen

Tom Antonsen called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. He remarked that the meeting this year is not held in conjunction with the 2010 April meeting because the “April APS” meeting was in February in Washington DC. Introductions followed.

2. Minutes of the Fall 2009 Meetings—Bill Heidbrink

Motion (Bhattacharjee/Carter): That the minutes of the Fall 2009 Executive Committee meeting be approved. Passed unanimously.

Motion (Bhattacharjee/Carter): That the minutes of the Fall 2009 Business meeting be approved. Passed unanimously.

3. APS Public Affairs Office—Mike Lubell

Mike gave a pessimistic assessment of the prospects for science funding in 2011. A continuing resolution is likely, which prevents planned increases in science funding.

Mike encouraged us to conduct a Contact Congress letter writing campaign at the DPP annual meeting in Chicago. Discussion followed. Mike emphasized the importance of “arm twisters.” Steve Eckstrand suggested that letter writers receive a second ticket stub for the DPP prize drawing. Mark Kushner suggested a separate letter for students to sign. Tom Antonsen appointed an *ad hoc* committee and gave them the responsibility to develop a plan.

Action Item #1. Tom Antonsen appointed an *ad hoc* committee of Mark Kushner, Saralyn Stewart, Dylan Brennan, Troy Carter, and Steve Allen to develop a plan for the letter writing campaign at the DPP annual meeting in Chicago.

4. Chair’s Report—Tom Antonsen

Tom reviewed the action items from the fall meeting.

1. Tom Antonsen and Peter Gary discussed the posting of slides from the invited and review talks on the *Physics of Plasmas* website with the editors of the journal.

Tom described the proposed solution. The DPP is responsible for collecting pdf versions of the slides and organizing them into the same format as the Epitome. The files will appear on the *Physics of Plasmas* site until the papers are published, on May 1. Review talks without a corresponding paper will stay longer. Discussion followed. Mark Kushner asked if animations could be included. Steve Allen recommended that the deadline to turn in the slides be at noon on Friday, November 12. Cary Forest noted the existence of online archives and suggested that the presentation remain as a link. **Done.**

Action Item #2. Steve Allen will talk to Sandra Schmidt in Ron Davidson's office, about posting of slides from invited, review, and tutorial talks on the *Physics of Plasmas* website and inquire if the presentations can remain as a link on the site.

Motion (Kushner/Sarff). That the proposal to post the slides on the *Physics of Plasmas* website be accepted. Passed unanimously.

2. Rick Lee **did not** distribute a flyer for the DPP Distinguished Lecturer program.

Action Item #3. Rick Lee will distribute a flyer for the DPP Distinguished Lecturer program. *Note: this Action Item is superseded by Action Item #16.*

3. A copy of *The Plasma Universe* was not sent with the Distinguished Lecturers because the program was moribund; however, Saralyn Stewart does have copies available for this purpose. Amitava Bhattacharjee reported that the editor of Cambridge University Press intends to print a second edition and would like to receive bulk orders beforehand. **Not done yet.**

Action Item #4. Tom Antonsen will recommend a bulk order of *The Plasma Universe* to the Executive Committee at the fall DPP ExCom meeting.

4. A plan for the Landau-Spitzer prize was prepared and discussed later in the meeting. **Done.**

5. Saralyn Stewart worked with APS Membership to contact lapsed DPP members. **Done.**

6. Bill Heidbrink notified Amy Flatten and Mike Stephens of our decision to continue participation in the APS International Travel Grant Award Program (ITGAP). John Sarff served on the selection committee and a plasma-related proposal was highly rated by the committee. **Done.**

7. Bill Heidbrink announced the ITGAP program in the DPP E-news. **Done.**

8. Saralyn Stewart had a link to the ITGAP program added to the DPP website. **Done.**

9. Amitava Bhattacharjee did discuss ways to insure that qualified women plasma physicists are nominated for APS Fellowship. In Melissa Douglas's assessment, the Women in Plasma Physics should not assume this responsibility. Steve Allen remarked that it is also inappropriate for the current Chair of the Fellowship Committee to solicit nominations. It was decided that the outgoing Vice Chair should send a general letter to

senior laboratory management, encouraging them to nominate qualified women in their organization. **Done.**

Action Item #5. Cary Forest will send a letter to laboratory leaders March 2011 encouraging them to nominate qualified women for APS-DPP Fellowship. He will also update the Best Practices document to include this additional annual responsibility.

10. Amitava Bhattacharjee did write a letter to Ed Synakowski commending Darlene Markevich for her service to DPP Outreach and politely requesting that these responsibilities be transferred to a successor. He also wrote a letter of thanks to Darlene. **Done.**

11. Amitava Bhattacharjee did contact Bill Graham regarding co-location of the 2011 meeting with the Gaseous Electronics Conference. This matter was discussed further later in the meeting. **Done.**

12. Tom Antonsen asked the HEDLP organizing committee to consider co-location of their conference with the 2011 APS April meeting. The organizers are not interested. **Done.**

13. The organizers of the Sherwood conference were asked to co-locate with the 2012 APS April meeting. The response was mixed. **Done.**

Action Item #6. Saralyn Stewart will schedule Amitava Bhattacharjee, Tom Antonsen, and Cary Forest to attend the upcoming meeting of the Sherwood Executive Committee remotely.

14. Saralyn Stewart sent Darren Craig a document that describes the responsibilities of the DPP local coordinator but Darren resigned. Steve Allen remarked that the document Lee Berry wrote includes many items that are the responsibility of the Program Chair; a less overwhelming description of the position is needed. **Done.**

15. Bill Heidbrink announced the DPP logo contest to the membership. **Done.**

16. The logo committee reviewed the submissions but was unable to reach a consensus. After lunch, Tom Antonsen led the attendees in selection of the new logo. First the field was narrowed to three possible logos. Then a final vote selected a logo with a helical particle orbit. **Done.**

17. A list of potential women session chairs will be sent to Steve Allen in June. **To be done in June.**

Action Item #7. Mary Ann Sweeney will send Steve Allen a list of potential session chairs for the 2010 annual meeting.

18. Melissa Douglas decided that it is inappropriate to send Steve Allen a list of potential women nominees for Fellowship. See item #9. **Complete.**

19. Troy Carter, Hantao Ji, and Ron Cohen did **not** complete draft documents on Climate Change and Energy Sustainability for submission to NSF. Troy reported that neither Mike Lubell nor the NSF official he contacted expressed much interest in these white papers. Amitava Bhattacharjee remarked that “the train has already left the station.” Cary Forest argued that “there is no single train,” so it is worthwhile to hone these

arguments in advance; also, it was noted that congressional staff has rapid turnover so the need to educate them is continuous. Mark Kushner observed that the National Science Board plays a role in setting these policies.

Action Item #8. The committee of Troy Carter, Hantao Ji, and Ron Cohen will complete the two-page draft documents on Climate Change and Energy Sustainability for submission to NSF and will send them to Tom Antonsen, Mike Lubell, and Saralyn Stewart for comment.

20. Information about student travel grant awards in the amount of \$500 each have **not** been posted on the APS-DPP website.

Action Item #9. Steve Allen, Tom Antonsen, and Cary Forest will decide criteria for the student travel grant awards and Saralyn Stewart will post the information on the APS-DPP meeting website.

5. Secretary-Treasurer Report—Bill Heidbrink

Bill summarized his written report. At the end of 2009, the Division had net assets of approximately \$825K. We have a liability of \$49K associated with our commitment to match contributions to the Maxwell Prize endowment. Bill recommended keeping the conference Registration Fees the same as the previous two years.

Motion (Allen/Carter): That the Registration Fees for the 2010 meeting be the same as last year. Passed unanimously.

Action Item 10: Bill Heidbrink will notify Donna Baudrau of the registration fees for the 2010 meeting.

A proposal for the Job Fair at the 2010 meeting has not been received yet.

Action Item 11: Bill Heidbrink will request a proposal for the 2010 Job Fair from Alix Brice at AIP.

DPP membership is stable but the percentage of the total APS membership is decreasing as other divisions grow.

6. The High Energy Density Laboratory Plasma Research Needs Workshop—David Hammer

David summarized his written report. The Executive Summary is nearly ready for distribution. The full report will require extensive editing to complete. A discussion of the involvement of DPP in this area followed. Denise Hinkel estimated that 25% of the participants are not in the DPP (some not even in the APS). Cary Forest inquired if this community would consider co-locating with the April meeting; David Hammer thought not. It was observed that one of the HEDLP areas is a good candidate for a Mini-Conference at the DPP meeting.

7. Prize and Awards Committee Reports

Joel Fajans submitted a written report on the Rosenbluth Doctoral Thesis Award committee. Amitava Bhattacharjee suggested that his report be redacted to remove specific names.

Action Item 12: Saralyn Stewart will ask Joel Fajans for a revised Rosenbluth Doctoral Thesis Award Committee report removing the specific names of proposed candidates.

The written reports by Max Tabak and Ian Hutchinson on the Maxwell Prize selection committee and the Maxwell Prize endowment committee were accepted without comment. The Maxwell Prize is just over 2/3 of the way toward its target of \$70K.

Amitava Bhattacharjee is chairing the Dawson Award committee due to conflicts of interest amongst the original committee members. Six nominations were carried forward from last year and four new nominations were received.

Amitava Bhattacharjee reported on the proposal for the joint Landau-Spitzer Prize with the European Physical Society (EPS). The EPS has endorsed the proposal drafted by the American sub-committee. The plan is to sequester \$25K of DPP funds, which is sufficient to provide \$2K for the award. A campaign to endow the prize will be deferred until after the Maxwell Prize is fully endowed. Cary Forest inquired about an early career award. Amitava Bhattacharjee replied that important issues for a new prize are its endowment and possible proliferation or overlap with existing prizes. Mark Kushner noted that other organizations have early career prizes and recommends that we establish one. Amitava noted that the AGU has such a prize and suggested that this may be an initiative that Cary will want to undertake when he becomes Chair.

Motion (Forest/Sarff): That the proposed Landau-Spitzer prize/award be approved. Passed unanimously.

Action Item 13: Tom Antonsen will forward the proposal for the Landau-Spitzer prize to Alan Chodos.

8. Additional Committee Reports

Mary Ann Sweeney summarized her written report on activities at the fall annual meeting by the Women in Plasma Physics. The cheapest plate lunch offered in Chicago is \$45, so the lunch subsidy will cost \$4,900. The committee is still discussing various possibilities for the program during lunch. Mark Kushner or Paul Drake could discuss academic career paths. The evening program also remains to be settled. Childcare grants were successful last year and will be offered again this year.

Motion (Carter/Bhattacharjee): That the proposed budget of \$8,900 for WIPPs activities at the Chicago meeting be approved. Passed unanimously.

No report from the Committee on the Concerns of Junior Scientists was received. Troy Carter confirmed that the intent of the committee's bylaws was for sequential two-year terms as vice-chair and chair.

Action Item 14: Mary Ann Sweeney will contact Tim Gray, chair of the Committee on Concerns of Junior Scientists, to coordinate an evening program at the DPP annual meeting.

Cary Forest summarized his written report on the Fellowship Committee. Deliberations are proceeding smoothly.

Earl Scime submitted a written report for the Public Information Committee. The committee plans to employ Tom Gerrow to edit the press releases again this year.

Motion (Carter/Kushner): That the committee be authorized to spend approximately \$300 to employ Tom Gerrow. Passed unanimously.

Masa Ono submitted a written report for the Nominating Committee. Tom Antonsen noted that more nominations are needed. A brief discussion followed, with no one volunteering to run. Tom encouraged everyone to send suggestions to the committee.

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

9. Education and Outreach—Rick Lee

Rick summarized his written report. In Atlanta, 125 teachers attended 18 workshops on Teacher's Day. A follow-up workshop was conducted recently. Approximately 1800 students attended the Expo on Thursday and Friday; the Thursday evening session was also well attended. The Chicago site visit went well. Rick expects 90-120 teachers at Teacher's Day and about 1200 students at the Expo. Rick reported that interest in the activities is higher in the suburban schools than in the inner-city Chicago school district. Mark Kushner knows John Anderson, the President of Illinois Institute of Technology; one of John's priorities is outreach to the community around south Chicago.

Action Item 15. Mark Kushner will email Rick Lee with contact information on John Anderson, President of Illinois Institute of Technology.

For his successor, Rick recommends Paul Miller of the University of West Virginia. He recommends that someone besides the Chair of the committee assume responsibility for the Distinguished Lecturer program.

Action Item 16. Tom Antonsen will ask Mark Koepke to lead the Distinguished Lecturer program.

Rick presented his budget for DPP support of the 2010 Education and Outreach activities in Chicago.

Motion (Carter/Bhattacharjee): That the requested funds be allocated for Education and Outreach activities in Chicago. Passed unanimously.

10. DPP 2010 Meeting Report—Steve Allen

Preparations for the meeting are proceeding. Steve has had a preliminary discussion about one potential Mini-Conference. No Town Meetings are scheduled yet. Steve Eckstrand noted that it may be easier to schedule a government official to speak in Chicago than in smaller venues. John Holdren, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, was mentioned as a possibility.

Action Item 17. Tom Antonsen will contact Dr. William Federer, a Maryland colleague who is working under Dr. John Holdren, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, to see if either Holdren or Federer will speak at a town meeting at the DPP annual meeting in Chicago.

Motion (Sarff/Carter): That a \$15K discretionary fund be allocated to the Program Chair. Passed unanimously.

Tom Antonsen has an offer out to a potential banquet speaker. Rick Lee noted that it is the year of the laser and suggested that an intelligent laser show would be appropriate.

Action Item 18. Bill Heidbrink will send an message to the DPP membership announcing the May 12 deadline for invited talks.

Saralyn Stewart included the 2010 Production Schedule in the written notes. The deadline for housing reservations is October 8 (rather than October 15). The Sorters meeting is July 22-23 in College Park.

11. Co-location of DPP and GEC in 2011—Amitava Bhattacharjee and Mark Kushner
Donna Baudrau joined the meeting remotely. Amitava said that he regretted the recent decision of the GEC organizers to hire an independent planner. Mark echoed these sentiments. Donna explained that it will be more difficult to coordinate the meetings with two entities in charge. The decision to hire someone besides the APS Meetings Department was attributed to a change of leadership at the GEC Executive committee. After it was suggested that we drop the co-location, Mark Kushner argued that the meeting still could be successful—the GEC has experience running their own conferences and their meeting space is confirmed--the issue now is coordination of the programs. Tom Antonsen recommended that the GEC send a representative to the DPP Sorter's Meeting in July. Mark Kushner said that Cary Forest should attend the 2010 GEC Meeting. Mark Kushner, Cary Forest, and Tom Antonsen, and Saralyn Stewart will serve on a coordination committee.

Action Item 19. Mark Kushner will contact the GEC leadership and inform Donna Baudrau about the plans to organize a successfully, coordinated meeting in 2011.

12. 2010 "April" Meeting Report—Steve Allen

The April meeting was held February 2010 and was nearly cancelled by the massive snowstorm. The DPP was involved in three sessions. One session was compromised by the cancellation of the Black Physicists conference due to a loss of funding. Attendance at the meeting was poor (10 speakers with 11 people in the room). In discussion, Cary Forest argued that the “experiment” of DPP involvement in the April meeting has been performed and we know the outcome: Without co-location of one of our meetings, the experiment is a failure. Amitava Bhattacharjee said that he likes the April meeting and argued that greater interaction with the broader physics community remains a desirable goal. Bill Heidbrink and Mary Ann Sweeney supported Cary Forest’s position with additional examples. Several possibilities for coordination were mentioned, including plasma astrophysics.

13. DPP Website Update—Saralyn Stewart

Work continues on the DPP website (aps.dpp.org). Attendees made several suggestions for improvement, including links to past awards winners and to the Weimar award. Saralyn Stewart requested that others examine the website and send suggested improvements to her. Troy Carter recommended that the Public Information Committee be given responsibility for website content.

Action Item 20. The Public Information Committee, currently chaired by Earl Scime, will take responsibility for advising Saralyn on the content of the DPP website.

14. APS Journals Report—Gene Sprouse, Dan Kulp, and Christine Giaccone

After introductions, Dan Kulp reported on a conflict that developed with the Culham UKAEA and the JET project over the APS copyright. Management at those laboratories instructed authors not to sign the copyright form. Dan explained the copyright policy to us, as he had to the UKAEA. After negotiations, the UKAEA determined that the APS copyright is acceptable to them and they are still submitting articles for publication.

15. U.S. Department of Energy—Steve Eckstrand

Steve recommended Ed Synakowski’s recent presentation to FESAC, which is available on the OFES website. The Early Career Awards are now part of a larger Department of Science program. Similarly, the ORISE graduate student fellowships are being phased out in deference to a larger Department of Science program. For now, the postdoc program is still administered by ORISE on behalf of OFES.

Retirements continue and the OFES remains understaffed. Both new employees and interns are needed.

Action Item 21: Steve Eckstrand will inform Tim Gray (COJS) about the opportunities within the Office of Fusion Energy Sciences.

16. International Union of Pure and Applied Physics Commission 16—Mark Koepke
Mark submitted a written report.

17. Coalition for Plasma Science—Lee Berry

Lee submitted a written report. Steve Allen described the prize winning paper at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

Motion (Forest/Carter): If they request it, the CPS is allocated \$5K for their activities. Passed unanimously.

18. Upcoming DPP Meetings

There was little discussion of this item.

19. Division Counselor Report—David Hammer

Tom Antonsen's presentation to the Executive Council was well received and appreciated. The percentage of women in the DPP is low. The number of experiments at universities is not increasing. Financial reserves for the APS have nearly rebounded to the pre-recession level. The controversial climate change statement has been revised with the word "incontrovertible" retained. A procedure to avoid similar controversies is being developed. DPP's million dollar reserve is attracting attention.

Action Item 22: Bill Heidbrink will transfer the Maxwell Prize matching funds from the DPP account to APS.

19. Other New Business—Tom Antonsen

Amitava Bhattacharjee recapped previous deliberations about a possible DOE program to encourage new plasma physics positions at universities (and possibly national laboratories). Previously, there had been some question about who to send the proposals to; also there was debate about whether to include national laboratories in the proposal. In Atlanta, Steve Koonin told Amitava to send the letter to him. Koonin was receptive to the university portion of the proposal and understands how a temporary subsidy can leverage the creation of permanent faculty positions. Troy Carter asked if early career programs for the labs exist; they do. Amitava noted that a program similar to the proposed one was effective in the space sciences. Mark Kushner observed that faculty slots are the scarce resource. Several people noted that it is pragmatic to give Koonin what he wants. Steve Eckstrand said that universities would apply and compete for the positions. In response to a question by Debbie Callahan, Tom Antonsen noted that the revised letter will discuss plasma physics alone, as a focused letter is more effective.

Action Item 23: Amitava Bhattacharjee will revise the letter to Steve Koonin and distribute it to the ExCom for review.

There was no other new business.

20. 2010 Fall Executive Committee Meeting

The fall meeting will be held at the Chicago Hyatt Regency on November 7.

24. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50.