

**2012 Spring DPP Executive Committee Meeting**  
*Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia*  
**Minutes of the Spring 2012 DPP Executive Committee Meeting**  
Saturday, March 31, 2012

**Members and Officers Present:** Steve Allen, Vincent Chan, Cary Forest, John Goree, Steve Knowlton, Mark Koepke, Karl Krushelnick, Tom Mehlhorn, Denise Hinkel, Fred Skiff

**DPP Administrator:** Saralyn Stewart

**Guests:** Kate Kirby, Bob Byer, Ted Hodapp, Mike Lubell, Gene Sprouse, Terri Gaier, Mary Ann Sweeney

1. Welcome remarks

Cary Forest called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Introductions followed along with an explanation of the agenda and Robert's Rules of Order procedure for the meeting.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

Karl Krushelnick presented the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held on Sunday, November 13, 2011, in Salt Lake City, Utah and the Business Meeting Minutes held on Wednesday, November 16, 2011. Corrections to minutes were noted which will be made to the final version to be posted on the DPP website.

**Motion (Chan/Goree):** To approve minutes of the Fall 2012 Executive Committee meeting with noted corrections and the Fall 2012 Business meeting with noted corrections.

**Approved unanimously.**

3. Chair's Report

Cary Forest noted that all of the appointed committees for the upcoming year were in place. There will also be an APS Council Meeting in Providence RI at about the same time as the APS DPP Conference in November 2012.

a. Salt Lake City meeting

Invited presentations from the 2011 Salt Lake City meeting have been placed on the AIP Physics of Plasmas website. More than 80% of invited speakers submitted papers to the special issue of *Physics of Plasmas*. This number was higher than previous years.

b. DPP Early Career Award

A committee was formed to examine the possibility of an early career award for DPP. The committee determined that such an award existed in other divisions of APS and that the establishment of such an award was desirable. The Landau Spitzer has an early career component but would not likely overlap with proposed award.

**ACTION #1:** Cary Forest, David Montgomery and Denise Hinkel will communicate to the DPP Executive Committee the proposed wording for the early career award before the next APS Board meeting in Providence.

c. 2012 Student Travel Grant Awards

There was discussion as to whether this award would include undergraduate students and also whether this was already implicit in the award. There was general agreement that undergraduates were already eligible and that their inclusion was desirable.

**ACTION #2:** Fred Skiff will modify wording on DPP website and E-news announcements about the Student Travel Grants so that “highly qualified” undergraduates are also included as being eligible for this award.

**Motion (Goree/Knowlton):** A maximum of 20 students will be eligible for a travel grant of up to \$1,000 each to attend the 2012 APS DPP meeting.

**Approved unanimously.**

d. FESAC meeting/divisional statement

There was significant discussion on a draft divisional statement from the APS DPP with regard to budget situation at DOE Fusion Energy Sciences. The main issue to be addressed by the statement was that a better balance should be sought between funding of domestic programs and that for ITER construction than presently planned. In the present situation increases for funding of ITER construction costs correspond directly to decreases for the domestic plasma physics research program. Mike Lubell discussed when and how such a statement could be used. He suggested that the impact of such a statement would be more significant if it was put forward immediately.

**ACTION #3:** Vincent Chan and Tom Mehlhorn will revise the present draft of the statement from the APS DPP with regard to the funding situation for plasma physics at DOE Fusion Energy Sciences Division and circulate it to the rest of the executive committee for approval.

e. Annual Meeting Web App

The Annual Meeting web-app seemed to work well and this will be continued for next year.

f. The Plasma Universe

It was noted that there are still 550 copies of “The Plasma Universe” remaining for use for Outreach activities (contact Saralyn Stewart).

**4. Action Items**

Cary Forest went through the written list of Action Items from the Fall 2012 meeting.

**1.** *Fred Skiff and Cary Forest will obtain logistical and cost information from APS regarding web streaming for the 2012 DPP invited, review, and tutorial talks.*

Not completed yet.

**ACTION #4:** Fred Skiff and Cary Forest will obtain logistical and cost information from APS regarding web streaming for the 2012 APS DPP invited, review, and tutorial talks.

**2.** *Cary Forest will send a letter to laboratory leaders encouraging them to nominate qualified women for APS Fellowship by February 2012.*

**Done.**

**3.** *John Goree will present a proposal for scanning classic plasma physics publications that are out of print and posting PDF versions on the DPP website at the next DPP Executive Committee meeting. Thesis dissertations and other out-of-print publications/textbooks are to be considered as well.*

*Mark Koepke will discuss the possibility of posting classic plasma physics papers on the DPP website at the next APS publications committee meeting. He will also contact APS with regard to posting notices of new plasma physics textbooks on the DPP website.*

John Goree reported that there were too many copyright issues with regard to posting pdf versions of classic plasma physics textbooks on the DPP website and consequently this will not be pursued further at this time.

**ACTION #5:** Mark Koepke will investigate the possibility of posting classic plasma physics papers on the DPP website at the next APS publications committee meeting. He will also contact APS with regard to posting notices of new plasma physics textbooks on the DPP website.

**4.** *Cary Forest will appoint a new subcommittee to investigate improvements for the APS job fair at the APS DPP meeting in Providence in 2012.*

**Done.**

**ACTION #6:** The APS DPP Job Fair subcommittee will contact Crystal Bailey of APS in order to provide input on the planning for the 2012 Job Fair.

**5.** *Cary Forest, Denise Hinkel, and David Montgomery will make a proposal for an early-career plasma physics award and report to the executive committee.*

**Done;** this was addressed during the Chairs' Report.

**6.** *Steve Allen and Cary Forest will draft a document with regard to university funding for plasma science and will send it to the DPP Executive Committee for consideration.*

**Done.**

**7.** *Karl Krushelnick and Saralyn Stewart to put Minutes and Newsletters on DPP website.*

**Done.**

**ACTION #7:** Karl Krushelnick and Saralyn Stewart will examine the DPP website and contact the Webmaster with a list of corrections and additions.

**8.** *Cary Forest to send Saralyn Stewart information about results from the RFID study for the DPP website.*

Some progress was reported, there has been a journal article submitted for publication.

**ACTION # 8:** Cary Forest will link results from the RFID study at the APS DPP 2011 meeting in Salt Lake City to the DPP website.

**9.** *An acknowledgement of donors to the DPP outreach/education program should be made on the website. The donors need to be asked whether they wish to be listed on the website.*

**ACTION #9:** Karl Krushelnick will update the list of donors to the DPP outreach/education program on the DPP website. Prior to this he will ask the donors whether they wish to be listed on the website.

**10.** *Cary Forest to send out emails to lapsed fellows from DPP to encourage them to rejoin APS.*

**Done.**

#### 5. Secretary-Treasurer Report

Karl Krushelnick made a presentation on the present state of the DPP finances and projections for 2012. The finances of the division are in good shape and the present balance stands at about \$733,000 (about the total liability for one DPP conference). There were losses at the APS conferences in 2009 and 2010 and so the registration fees for the 2011 meeting were raised by 3.5%. Initial estimates however suggest that the Providence RI conference in 2012 should not be more expensive than the average over the past few years and a recommendation was made to leave the conference fees the same as last year.

**Motion (Forest/Mehlhorn):** To keep the registration fees in Providence, Rhode Island (APS DPP 2012) the same as in Salt Lake City (APS DPP 2011)

**Approved unanimously.**

There was discussion about the status of the award funds (Maxwell, Dawson and Rosenbluth) as well as whether the present balances would be sufficient for the long term. Karl Krushelnick noted that the balance for the Dawson prize appeared to be low.

**ACTION ITEM #10:** Karl Krushelnick will contact Warren Mori of UCLA about how the mechanism by which the UCLA contribution for the Dawson prize is paid.

**ACTION ITEM #11:** Saralyn Stewart will put descriptions of the DPP divisional awards on the DPP website.

**ACTION ITEM #12:** Saralyn Stewart and Karl Krushelnick will contact Brian Mosely with regard to the letter writing campaign at the APS DPP conference 2012.

Annual APS Membership Demographics (written report submitted).

#### 6. Additional Committee Reports

a. Committee on Women in Plasma Physics/Mary Ann Sweeney (written report submitted).

In the submitted report there was a request for continued funding of the Committee's activities at the APS meeting. A proposal was made for the Women in Plasma Physics Lunch Registration Fee in 2012 to be the same as in 2011.

**Motion (Steve Allen/Vincent Chan):** To approve the requested budgets for the Committee on Women in plasma physics.

**Approved unanimously.**

b. Committee on Concerns of Junior Scientists

There was no report at this meeting. Dylan Brennan was unable to attend.

c. Fellowship Committee

Mark Koepke made a report with regard to the activities of the fellowship committee. The deadline to receive fellowship applications online is April 2, 2012.

d. Nominating Committee.

Saralyn reported (for John Sarff) that the committee was on track to obtain the necessary nominations for the upcoming elections.

e. Publication Committee

Peter Gary submitted a written report.

7. APS Public Affairs Office

Mike Lubell discussed the activity in Washington related to the US FY 2013 budget process for science. He suggested that flat funding was the most likely scenario. Mike Lubell also noted a popular blog on energy policy. "Our Energy Policy Foundation" by Yossi Holland, which could use some input on fusion. He suggested that this be mentioned in one of the monthly DPP e-newsletters.

8. DPP Statement on Plasma Science and Budget

This was addressed during the Chair's report.

9. APS Reports

a. Executive Officer

The executive officer of APS, Kate Kirby, and the President of APS, Robert Byer, made a presentation to the DPP executive committee.

After a year of work by its leadership, the APS strategic plan for 2013 through 2017 has been completed and is being circulated to the membership. The plan sets forth a series of goals for the Society over the next half-decade. The planning process, involving extensive Executive Board and APS staff discussions, was started in 2011 as a way to develop a roadmap for the Society over the next five years.

The overall goals are to better serve 1) the members, 2) the physics community and 3) society. Finding ways to better serve the members includes improving communication between the Society and its members, involving more international members in the Society's leadership (21% of membership is international), and making the membership itself more diverse and inclusive.

It was found to be important that the physics community and the APS reflect better the nationwide demographics—meaning the involvement of more underrepresented minority physicists and more women, as well as reaching out to physicists who are in careers that have been underserved by APS, such as industrial physics.

To better serve the physics community as a whole, the plan outlines goals to make the physics community thrive. First and foremost, the Society aims to keep its journals and

meetings as prime sources of cutting-edge physics research. In addition, the Society will continue to advocate for physics to policy makers, and continue to promote physics education at all levels. In order to serve society as a whole, APS aims to be the leading source of information about physics, and to build support for science among the public. This includes disseminating information about physics, continuing its outreach efforts aimed at building public appreciation, and improving the quality of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education generally. While the plan outlines strategic goals and objectives, implementation ideas will be developed through discussions between the Executive Board and APS staff and the work of various task forces and committees, and informed by suggestions from unit leadership and APS members.

They also noted the formation of a new Task Force called “Re-imagining Meetings” which would examine the APS conference series and in particular the April Meeting to see if it could be improved to meet the needs of the Society. Kate Kirby invited the participation of the DPP on this Task Force.

b. Honors Program

Alan Chodos gave details about the status of the award funds and described the new Landau Spitzer award to be presented in Stockholm at the EPS 2012 meeting.

c. APS Journals Report

Gene Sprouse, the editor of Physical Review, provided some information on the state of the Physical Review journals. He also noted that the new online journal PRX had a very successful start and presently had an acceptance rate of 20%.

He also discussed the increased internationalization of the Physical Review Journals (with regard to submitted and published papers as well as referees). There will be a search for the new editor of Physical Review E, which required the formation of a search committee.

**ACTION # 13:** Cary Forest to nominate a person from the Division of Plasma Physics to be a member of the search committee for a new editor of Physical Review E.

Ted Hodapp of the APS Education and Diversity Section then reported on the status of under represented minorities in US physics departments. He mentioned that change was inevitably slow since there are only about 350 academic jobs that come open in physics in the U.S. each year.

The Education and Diversity Section also seeks to improve the number of high school teachers with physics degrees and to preserve physics departments at universities that are now considering them for elimination. Other issues addressed by the Education and Diversity Section is the low number of women in physics, in particular the DPP has only 7% female members.

10. Prize and Awards Committee Reports

- a. Maxwell Prize, Bill Heidbrink submitted a written report.
- b. Marshall Rosenbluth Thesis Award, Mark Gilmore submitted a written report.
- c. John Dawson Excellence Award, Troy Carter submitted a written report.

d. Landau-Spitzer Award, Fred Skiff briefly reported on the status of the inaugural Landau Spitzer award to be presented at the next EPS meeting (the *nomination deadline is March 25, 2012*).

11. Education and Outreach, and Plasma Physics Support

Paul Miller submitted a written report.

**Motion (Skiff/Koepke):** The DPP will authorize a donation of up to \$32,000 for Education and Outreach from the DPP account.

**Approved unanimously.**

12. Distinguished Lecturer Program

Mark Koepke provided information about restarting this program. It was thought best to begin with the names and hosts from institutions that had previously taken advantage of the program. There was some discussion about the process for finding suitable speakers and hosts.

13. 54th Meeting: DPP 2012 Meeting Report

a. Fred Skiff, the 2012 program committee chair, discussed the upcoming annual meeting and outlined the status of proposed mini-conferences as well as the town meeting schedule.

b. Public Information Committee/David Hill  
No report received from David Hill who was unable to attend.

c. Discretionary Funds Request  
Fred Skiff discussed in further detail the planning for the upcoming DPP meeting in Providence and gave a brief report of the activity of the program committee. He requested a chair's discretionary budget that totaled \$20,000 to be spent on program and facilities, travel grants, and pure discretionary.

**Motion (Goree/Allen):** That the amount of the chair's discretionary funds for the APS DPP 2012 conference be \$20k.

**Approved unanimously.**

d. Banquet Entertainment  
Cary Forest discussed the selection of the speaker for the DPP banquet in Providence. This was to be James Glanz of the New York Times.

e. Production Schedule. Saralyn Stewart submitted a written report.

14. 2012 April APS / Sherwood Meeting Report

Fred Skiff discussed the participation of the DPP in the April 2012 meeting, i.e., co-location of the Sherwood meeting. This was going well although there was significant further discussion about the long-term participation by the DPP in the April meeting in general.

**Motion (Goree/Mehlhorn):** The Division of Plasma Physics will not be an official part of the 2013 April meeting but would like to participate in the task force for Re-imaging Meetings and strongly endorses this activity.

**Passed unanimously.**

**ACTION #14** Fred Skiff will talk to Kate Kirby about ending the participation of the DPP in the April meeting.

15. DPP Meetings

Terri Gaier requested suggestions for the location of the APS DPP in 2017.

Suggestions that arose for consideration were Madison, Portland, Boston, San Antonio, and Nashville all of which will be investigated.

The planned dates and locations for upcoming DPP conferences are:

DPP 2012 (*October 29-November 2, 2012, Providence, Rhode Island*)

DPP 2013 (*November 11-15, 2013, Denver, Colorado*)

DPP 2014 (*October 27-31, 2014, New Orleans, Louisiana*)

DPP 2015 (*November 16-20, 2015, Savannah, Georgia*)

DPP 2016 (*October 31-November 4, San Jose, California*)

16. International Union of Pure and Applied Physics Commission

Mark Koepke reported that there was a new chair of Commission 16: Plasma Physics (IUPAP C-16), Bob Bingham, who started in November 2011. The new U.S. representative is Bob Merlino.

17. Coalition for Plasma Science Activities

Written reported submitted by Lee Berry. There was no request for funding from CPS at this point. They will wait until Fall 2012 to see if this will be required.

18. Plasma Physics Representation in the National Academy of Sciences

John Goree raised the issue that the field of plasma physics is very underrepresented in the National Academy of Sciences. He suggested that it might be possible for the APS to influence the selection process of new members by drafting a letter to the NAS and drawing attention to this problem.

**ACTION #15:** John Goree and Tom Mehlhorn will draft a letter for consideration by the DPP Executive Committee to the president of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) with regard to the low representation of plasma physics within NAS.

19. Other New Business

Mark Koepke remarked that, in general, attendees of both GEC and DPP conferences expressed the view that co-location of the two conferences in 2011 was successful. Informal contacts with the GEC executive committee suggested that they would be happy with periodic co-location of the two conferences in the future (i.e., every 3-5 years).

There was general agreement among the DPP executive committee to keep the GEC organizing committee aware of the future locations for the DPP meeting.

20. Date for 2012 Fall Executive Committee Meeting

Cary Forest stated that the date for the next Executive Committee meeting would be Sunday, October 28, 2012, The Westin Providence (start time 10:00 a.m.)

21. Adjourn

**Motion (Mehlhorn/Forest):** There was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:35 pm.