

## Minutes of the Spring DPP Executive Committee Meeting (Draft)

Hyatt Regency Savannah, Savannah GA

Saturday April 5 2014

DPP ExCom members present:

Riccardo Betti (via remote), Vincent Chan, Dan Dubin, Fatima Ebrahimi, Catherine Fiore, Mark Koepke, David Meyerhofer, Edward Thomas

DPP Administrator: Saralyn Stewart

Guests: Jon Burkin, Terri Gaier, Ted Hodapp, Robert Kaita, Jennifer Pirnat, Gene Sprouse,

1. Welcome remarks. Mark Koepke called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.
2. Mark presented the minutes of the previous executive meeting held in Denver, CO on November 10, 2013. Motion: (Meyerhofer/Chan) To approve minutes. The committee voted to accept the minutes.
3. Chair's report
  - a) Miscellaneous news: the NRC committee received a charge on the next decadal study.
  - b) 2013 Invited presentations on AIP PoP website – different years have varying levels of success in collecting the presentations. **It was recommended that the chair of the program committee be proactive in contacting invited speakers by adding information about uploading their presentation file to the website before the meeting and by sending a reminder letter about uploading after the meeting; and also, to get the website up as quickly as possible.** There was some discussion as to the relative benefit of putting effort into collecting these presentations compared to other meeting priorities.
  - c) Student travel awards – In 2013 21 students were awarded travel support to attend the meeting, up to \$1000 each. 75% were from smaller universities. **It is recommended that the program chair inform students they must get their travel expense requests in within 45 days, or risk losing their award. Also, the program chair should advise these students to join APS and DPP (as membership is free the first year for undergraduate and graduate students).**
  - d) FESAC news – three upcoming charges to the fusion energy sciences advisory committee were discussed.
    - 1—a charge to provide recommendations for future programs at the grad or postdoc level that address current gaps in discipline and needs in scientific workforce training (eg. fusion engineering, computation)
    - 2—a charge to create a committee of visitors to assess the Office of Fusion Energy program monitoring and selection activities
    - 3—some hints of two charges in congressional language in the 2014 Appropriations Bill; to submit a plan with research goals and resource needs to implement a fusion simulation program, and to assess priorities for the domestic fusion program based on various possible future funding scenarios
  - e) Full funding of DOE awards. The DOE must now have funds available to fully fund multiyear awards for the entire award period, which implies that during the change-over period from current practices there will be less money

available. It was concluded that there is nothing that can be done by DPP about DoE's allocation rate, although it will be painful and inconvenient over the short term.

- f) Graduate fellowship award—the Stacey fellowship has been approved by the APS council
  - g) Banquet entertainment -- Eric Donovan has been chosen to give a talk on “Northern Lights: Science, Beauty, and Movement”. **Motion: (Meyerhofer/Dubin) to provide up to \$3000 for a speaker honorarium. The motion passed.**
  - h) We currently have 500 copies of the plasma universe booklet, so it was decided we don't need any more printed at this time. A free booklet on ICF was recommended for teachers day, available from the U. Rochester website.
4. Previous Action items generated in the November 2013 meeting were discussed.
- 1—Regarding information on the RFID exercise at DPP 2011, the RFID report will be circulated to the committee to determine if the link should be added to the DPP website.
  - 2—The Stix award has been approved by the APS committee on prizes and awards and will be awarded in 2014.
  - 3 – Vincent Chan contacted DFD to determine interest in a joint DPP-DFD meeting, but the DFD executive committee has not yet responded.
  - 4—Mark Koepke investigated the possibility of posting classic plasma physics papers on the DPP website, by contacting 3 journals and the DPP publication committee. Journal of Plasma Physics already does this, the other journals have not responded yet. It was decided to drop the idea of linking to notices of new textbooks, since such notices are already available in various places.
  - 5—Mark Koepke sent the DOE-FES and NSF program managers an email to see if there is consensus to draft a letter of endorsement for a multi-agency partnership in laboratory astrophysics. He is waiting for a response, but Steve Gitomer (NSF) already responded in the affirmative.
  - 6—**Action item: Dan Dubin and Saralyn Stewart will draft an item in the DPP newsletter (with input from David Montgomery) advertising the resume writing help desk that will be part of the 2014 job fair.**
  - 7—Tim Tharp made an announcement regarding the resume writing help desk at the Junior Scientist town meeting and reported back. His written report is included in the meeting agenda (item 17c) to be discussed later.
  - 8—A call for nominations for the Nicholson medal will be placed in the DPP E-News.
  - 9—John Goree will gather further information regarding the distribution of the National Academy of Sciences membership (not done).
  - 10—Saralyn Stewart worked with APS membership regarding lapsed DPP members to encourage them to renew their membership. New personnel at APS are tasked with this.
  - 11 –Vincent Chan invited Ed Ott to receive the Lillienfeld prize at the DPP banquet, but Ed decided to accept the prize at one of the general meetings. **Instead we will make an announcement at the banquet. Mark Koepke will contact APS personnel to get a slide to go along with the announcement.**

12—Saralyn Stewart will published information about the number of votes received along with the annual election results in DPP E-news, in hopes of encouraging higher voter turnout.

13—Mark Koepke will review best practices for the DPP program committee to ensure diverse representation (not finished).

14—Fred Skiff and Saralyn Stewart will investigate the possibility of posting job listings in the DPP E-news. (not done)

15—Mark Koepke contacted GEC officers regarding the possibility of co-locating with GEC in 2018. They are interested. GEC would prefer a co-located meeting in either Portland, Long Beach or Sacramento in order of preference, provided they can coordinate so as to avoid the American Vacuum Society meeting which is also held in October-November. This issue was taken up later in the meeting when Terri Gaier presented options for the 2018 meeting (item 18).

5. Stacey Graduate Fellowship—Kate Kirby reported that, although the award was approved, the APS executive board was somewhat concerned that the award orientation toward fusion was somewhat narrow, and emphasized engineering rather than physics. They were worried that the award would too often go to students in engineering departments. There was a rejoinder from the executive committee that plasma physics is often in engineering departments.
6. APS reports
  - a) Kate Kirby reported on APS membership. There are currently 50,500 members. 13% of APS members are women; 2/3 of which are 40 and under. 30% are students and 6% are in industry. Given that only about 50% of students are moving on to academic positions, more information on other employment opportunities is needed. "Local links" are currently being formed in order to create venues to bring in established physicists working in the private sector to let early career members know the opportunities that exist outside of academia. Also, the early career taskforce has recommended that industrial physics have a higher profile in the APS. APS hired an Industrial Physics Fellow, Steven Lambert, for this task. Kate also mentioned that the 2019 March meeting (in Boston) will be an all APS-wide meeting, for all units. She discussed that the APS is looking into the possibility of starting international sections of the APS.
  - b) Gene Sprouse gave a report on APS publications. He discussed ongoing renovations to the APS editorial office building on Long Island. Regarding journals, he discussed the new journals. PRX was started in 2011, and Physical Review Applied is a new journal focusing on applied physics. He discussed the motivation for PRX as a small high impact high quality journal. PR Applied was approved in June 2013, and started accepting manuscripts in December 2013. It accepts 3 types of articles: letters, articles, and reviews. The journal editors are currently receiving about 70-80 manuscripts per month. Gene also reported that the PACS codes are being phased out, to be replaced by a taxonomy that will be used to classify papers and APS abstracts, in order to aid in topic searches. James Taylor has been hired by APS as the

Deputy Executive Officer assisting the editorial director. William Reinhardt is the newly hired Director of APS Honors Program.

- c) Ted Hodapp reported on education and diversity issues. He introduced several staff members supporting APS efforts in these areas, and mentioned the PhysTek program and the APS bridge program as two main APS education-outreach programs. He mentioned several smaller programs that might be of interest to DPP, such as helping to bring in diverse speakers, helping organize professional skills development workshops, and workshops on mentoring. He discussed conferences held for undergraduate women in physics, which are held over the MLK weekend at 8 sites simultaneously, as an opportunity to reach and mentor young female physicists. He discussed the bridge program, which mentors undergraduates from underrepresented groups who were initially unsuccessful in applying for graduate school, and helps them reapply to graduate schools. Last year the program got 15 underrepresented students into graduate school.

#### 7. Secretary-Treasurer report.

Dan Dubin reported that the 2013 DPP meeting basically broke even, making \$27K on overall revenue of \$547K. The DPP has a current balance of about \$650K. Dan projected that barring unforeseen circumstances, the 2013 registration fee should cover 2014 expenses and therefore **recommended that the registration fee remain at \$460. Motion: (Meyerhofer/Chan) : the 2014 fees stay the same as 2013; the motion was passed.** Dan noted that meeting costs traditionally do not include childcare expenses, student travel costs or teacher travel expenses for teachers day, costs which are voted on separately and included in DPP accounts as separate budget items.

Regarding unit membership, Dan noted that membership is basically flat. A brief discussion ensued on strategies to increase membership, such as improved outreach to industrial plasma physicists.

#### 8. APS corporate reform.

Vincent Chan reported that the APS has taken on a study of APS corporate reform, that will consider reorganization of the APS governing structure. He reported that there is a window between April and mid June when members can give input to the ad hoc committee that will be making reform recommendations, and consequently DPP members must be informed soon of the ad hoc committee's tentative plans. Vincent mentioned several reasons why a reorganization is being contemplated at this time, among them the perceived need among a majority of the council members for improved efficiency for membership input via council representation and streamlined decision-making, and necessary changes to meet new legal requirements for nonprofit corporations in the District of Columbia. The current APS top management model spreads ultimate decision-making responsibility between three co-equal operating officers, and a change to a more modern CEO-type organizational model could help the leadership get things done more nimbly in a flat and fast changing world. Changes to the responsibilities of the APS council are also being considered, so that, among other things, council will focus on science and science policy, ceding fiduciary

responsibilities e.g. financial matters, oversight of development and execution, appointment and compensation, to a smaller Board of Directors. Vincent reported that a fairly rapid timeline has been set due to various circumstances, with a vote by APS membership on the Council recommendations to be held in September/October 2014. He then outlined the current tentative proposal for changes. There was a discussion of the relative merits of the current proposal, and the difficulty of eliciting timely feedback from the division.

9. Women in plasma physics initiatives at the 2014 DPP meeting in New Orleans  
The committee discussed the report of the CWIPP, and voted on the budget request funding planned activities in New Orleans, including a lunch, reception, evening speaker and child care. Motion: (Meyerhofer/Chan) **A total of up to \$10,680 was proposed by the CWIPP. The motion passed.**

#### 10. Education and Outreach

The committee discussed the DPP Education and Outreach report, and **their request for a total of \$32.5K for teacher's day and the plasma expo. Motion: (Meyerhofer/Chan) approve this budget request.** The motion passed. It was also noted that \$10K in expenses for teacher's day that used to come from the CPEP grant will not be provided this year, and thus DPP may need to provide more funding for these activities in future. However, it was decided that more information was needed before the committee could determine the best course of action on this issue.

#### 11. 2014 DPP meeting in New Orleans

Riccardo Betti presented a report on preparations for the upcoming 2014 DPP meeting in New Orleans. A brief discussion ensued of possible review talk speakers and topics. Riccardo requested money for up to 20 student travel grants to the meeting, but the committee could not vote on this issue due to a lack of a quorum. **It was decided that an email vote for the committee would be scheduled in the near future on this budget issue.**

#### 12. APS DPP Fellowship Committee Report.

David Meyerhofer reported on the Fellowship committee's decisions regarding new APS fellows through DPP.

#### 13. State of Women Fellows in DPP

Catherine Fiore presented a letter from members of the DPP outlining their concern that few women in the DPP have been nominated or become fellows in recent years. **Action Item : It was decided that a letter will be drafted and sent to research managers in industry and at national labs, research institute directors, and department chairs, asking that they encourage their scientists to join DPP and to consider nominating women for APS Fellowship.**

#### 14. Weston M. Stacey Magnetic Fusion Energy Graduate Fellowship

Mark Koepke informed the committee that this new graduate student fellowship was just accepted by the APS and that, although matching funds must still be raised for

the award, he will soon be appointing a committee to choose the first fellowships.  
**Action Item: Mark Koepke will communicate with APS staff to determine how, when, and where the new graduate student fellowship will be advertised.**

#### 15. Prize and Award Committee Reports

Mark Koepke presented Fred Skiff's report on the Landau Spitzer prize. The 2014 award is the second time it will be presented, and this time it will be an early career award. Mark also reported on the Stix early career award, which will be presented for the first time this year.

#### 16. Distinguished Lecturer in Plasma Physics

Mark Koepke presented the new 2013-2015 cohort of distinguished lecturers. DPP distinguished lecturer information can be found on the DPP website.

#### 17. Additional Committee Reports

Mark Koepke reported that he has appointed several new members to the publication committee. The Committee on Concerns of Junior Scientists has requested up to \$1000 each to provide limited travel funds for a four-member panel at the COJS town hall meeting in October, and additional funding for refreshments. **The DPP ExCom decided to hold an email vote on these requests.**

**Mark Koepke asked the ExCom to endorse the choice of Amy Wendt to replace Robert Merlino as the DPP Representative of the IUPAP Commission 16, which the committee was happy to do. [post-meeting note: Amy Wendt declined the nomination.]**

#### 18. APS Meetings Department

Terri Gaier reported on possible choices for the 2018 APS DPP meeting. This meeting is being proposed to be co-located with the Gaseous Electronics Conference. The choices were Portland (4-9 November), Long Beach (11-16 November) and Sacramento (21-26 October). After some discussion **the committee recommended Portland as the top choice, with Long Beach as the backup choice if there is a time conflict with the American Vacuum Society meeting on November 4-9. An email to the DPP ExCom will be sent out for an email vote.**

#### 19. Report of the Committee on Careers and Professional Development

This will be the last year that Dick Berger is on this committee, and **he requests that the DPP nominating committee nominates a replacement for him.** It was noted that the nominating committee may want to nominate DPP members for several other APS-wide committees.

The DPP ExCom adjourned at 5:20 PM.