

**Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting  
Division of Plasma Physics (DPP)  
Thursday, 25 March 1999  
Westin Hotel  
Atlanta, Georgia**

**Attendees:**

**ExCom Members:** Miklos Porkolab, Jim Drake, Allen Boozer, Vincent Chan, Nat Fisch, Bill Kruer, Richard Hazeltine, Michael Brown, Sam Cohen, Joel Fajans, John Finn, Tom Jarboe, Mark Koepke, Martin Lampe, Scott Parker

**DPP Administrator:** Saralyn Stewart

**Sub-Committee Chairs:** Tom Simonen, Loren Steinhauer, Bruce Remington

**Guests:** Judy Franz, Martin Blume, Tom McIlrath, Mary Ann Sweeney, Jeff Colvin

**Opening Remarks and Announcement of New ExCom Members and Guests – Porkolab**

Miklos Porkolab called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm. After introducing the attendees, he expressed the intent to shorten the agenda, because of lack of committee reports, and to finish by end of night.

**APS Executive Officers' Report – Franz, Blume, McIlrath**

Judy Franz gave a report on the recommendations from the APS task force on restructuring the council. The main recommendation is to reduce the number of council seats from 70 to 40, by limiting the number of divisional councilors to one and eliminating the sectional councilors. The advantages are that all councilors will be able to sit at one table and they have more opportunities to serve on executive committees. The proposal will be discussed at the APS council meeting in May. She asked that the DPP ExCom discuss this and give its input to the divisional councilor.

Porkolab offered Franz DPP's help to lobby Congress for more physical science funding. She commented that such activities have a higher probability of success if a bill is pending.

Martin Blume gave a report on the status of APS publications, mentioning the continuing trend of putting them on-line. Financially, the journals remained healthy.

Tom McIlrath reported on the financial status of APS and stressed the need to do long-range planning.

The DPP passed a motion (Kruer, seconded by Lampe) to congratulate Franz and the APS staff for a superbly organized centennial meeting.

**November Executive Committee Minutes – Chan**

The November minutes were passed without revision (motion: Hazeltine, seconded by Brown).

**Secretary-Treasurer Report – Chan**

Vincent Chan reported the DPP account balance had \$226k on 01/31/98, income from membership dues and investment is \$23k, the DPP98 meeting had a net loss of \$43k (mainly on overruns in room subsidy, coffee and decorator expenses), expenses for Teacher's Day and Science Expo was

\$10k and other operating expenses were \$38k (including a one time only printing of the Pervasive Plasma brochures for \$15k and contribution to the Coalition for Plasma Science of \$5k). The DPP account balance as of 01/31/99 was \$160k.

The causes for the overruns were discussed and all agreed on the need to have better control of the costs in future meetings.

Vincent Chan presented three budget scenarios for DPP99 to the ExCom for discussions. The ExCom voted 12 to 2 to accept the third budget (motion: Hazeltine, seconded by Kruer) which aims for a balanced budget even with some decline in attendance from DPP98. The budget will remove the room subsidy, set the registration fees to \$10 over the DPP97 numbers except for students and retired members, which will stay the same. An amendment (proposed by Boozer and seconded by Cohen) to raise the registration fee to \$275 for members was defeated 7 to 6.

### **New Orleans Survey Results – Drake**

Jim Drake reported on the DPP98 survey results. Comments included not enough coffee, the Radisson was in a bad location and too far, and never have a mini-conference at a separate site.

Jim requested that someone should check into internet access at DPP99. Loren Steinhauer will take that up as an action item.

### **Councilor's Report – Kruer**

Bill Kruer said the present council is too big and the recommendation by the APS task force on restructuring the council is a good idea. A motion (Boozer, seconded by Hazeltine) to support the APS task force's recommendation on reducing council size was unanimously passed.

### **Education and Outreach – Simonen, Remington**

Simonen reported that the distinguished lecturers selection committee has recommended five candidates (Dahlburg, Drake, Driscoll, Gekelman, Meade) to give several lectures each in the coming year. This will be supported by some traveling funds from DOE managed through PPPL. The ExCom unanimously approved this slate of lecturers (motion: Hazeltine, seconded by Boozer). This will be announced in the APS News. Some discussions on whether the lecture series should take a break and future efforts to secure additional funding followed.

A New Orleans Teacher's Day and Science Expo summary was given by Simonen. The Science Expo was attended by over 3000 students and was a great success. As with future DPP meetings, the ExCom agreed that better budgeting is important. A detailed budget for the Seattle Teacher's Day and Science Expo was presented. A motion was passed (Finn, seconded by Hazeltine) to provide \$10k for this event. The rest of the funding will come from APS-wide funds and fundraising.

A three year commitment for a science prize for Pittsburgh schools was approved previously. No other commitment has been made.

The DPP centennial display was a success with many requests from various states and other countries for additional information and the backdrop display. Requests should be sent to Simonen/Danielson at General Atomics and Saralyn Stewart will put the backdrop on the DPP web site. Simonen and Drake will write a letter to thank Mike Schaffer for his effort.

Remington reported for the public information committee. Two out of 14 topics in the APS centennial press release came from fusion suggestions (nuclear physics with lasers and supernovae)

and there was one plasma physics press conference. It was suggested that DPP should produce plain text version of science hot topics for the press. Drake and the program committee will look into this.

A written report was submitted by Rogoff on behalf of the Coalition for Plasma Science. There will be a workshop at the IEEE Plasma Science Meeting this summer on how to communicate with non-scientists.

Drake and Boozer visited Washington on an outreach trip. Porkolab will organize another trip to NSF, DoD, etc., in late Spring. A cap in overall funding is causing a problem according to congressional aides.

### **Administrator's Report – Stewart**

The ExCom approved the suggestion of Stewart to put the newsletter on the web which should lead to \$8k savings on operating costs.

### **International Collaboration – Fisch, Porkolab**

The Japanese Physical Society meeting will have two invited slots for U.S. scientists according to Tony Taylor. Fisch reported that of the 25 invited slots at this year's EPS meeting, the U.S. got 5. It is important for the U.S. representative to be present at the program committee meetings but the trips should be arranged to coincide with other funded trips.

### **Review of Action Items – Porkolab**

All the previous action items except one have been acted on or ceased to be an issue. The Canadian organizers may have to withdraw from the DPP00. Prediman Kaw will get back to Drake on whether ICCP will pick it up if that's the case. Porkolab has been asked to get a U.S. person to be responsible as local chair.

### **DPP2001 and 2002 Site Selection – Fisch, Chan**

A motion (Hazeltine seconded by Kruer) to proceed with Long Beach for DPP01 was passed.

Chan/Fisch will work with APS meetings department to check out Orlando, Albuquerque, Baltimore, Charleston, Savannah, Vancouver (Canada) and Portland for DPP02.

### **Joint APS Units Fall Meeting – Drake and Porkolab**

Drake reported that Astrophysics division is interested in a joint meeting with DPP only if Particles and Fields division is included. Porkolab reported a similar situation with the division of Beams; they would be interested to join the fall DPP meeting only if both the divisions of Particles and Fields and Nuclear Physics would join. This would make the meeting very large, ending up with the situation that was voted down by ExCom in New Orleans. The ExCom felt that the membership had voted and it was too soon to reconsider this issue. DPP can continue the interaction with other divisions through the mini-conferences. Fisch suggested we should encourage the Plasma Astrophysics topical group to get more new people to the DPP meeting.

### **DPP99 Activities – Steinhauer**

Steinhauer reported that the DPP99 Science Expo will be at the Seattle Center and the Teacher's Day will be in the DPP meeting hotel on Tuesday. Some logistics will be required to set up the

plenary room on the first day. Drake and Chan will visit the site at the end of April and will make a note of this.

A motion (by Porkolab and seconded by Boozer) to set aside \$2k for foreign attendee subsidy was passed. The Program Chair will approve requests.

**The meeting adjourned at 11:00 pm.**

**Recap of Action Items From This Meeting – Chan**

1. Drake requested that someone should check into internet access at DPP99. Loren Steinhauer will take that up as an action item.
2. Saralyn Stewart will put backdrop on DPP website. Simonen and Drake will write a letter to thank Mike Schaffer for his effort.
3. It was suggested that DPP should produce plain text version of science hot topics for press. Drake and the program committee will look into this.
4. The Canadian organizers may have to withdraw from the DPP00. Prediman Kaw will get back to Drake on whether ICCP will pick it up if that's the case. Porkolab has been asked to get a U.S. person to be responsible as local chair.