

Annual Report for 2002

Committee on Careers and Professional Development

Summary

Members of the CCPD spent the first portion of the year on several initiatives that were begun in 2001 and took place in early 2002 as well as planning events for 2003. We believe that the importance of organizing and focusing APS members' attention to many issues surrounding careers has not diminished. However, CCPD was organized as a response to a particular economic climate and a perception that the physics community was not interested in what happened to students when they entered the workforce. Since that initial focus, the climate in the community has changed and we are now entering a time of economic problems that are widespread and not as focused on the physics community. As a result, we spent a considerable time working to better define the goals and assessment methods of CCPD. While the question has been raised whether this is an essential task of the APS, committee members continue to feel that ensuring there is an APS focus on career and professional development issues is important.

Membership and Participation

One important aspect of CCPD has been the close cooperation with FIAP. While we have many similar interests, it is essential to avoid duplication of efforts. We have not been as successful in 2002 at coordinating efforts with the Forum on Education. One critical aspect of our membership is a desire to maintain the representation of graduate students. Having a CCPD member who is a graduate student was initiated to ensure this goal. However, the creation of the Forum on Graduate Student Affairs allows us another option. In the future, we will coordinate efforts with the forum and will issue an invitation for FGSA to send a representative to CCPD meetings. This has been an effective method of working with FEd and FIAP although it is dependent on the work of individual Forum representatives.

CCPD received publicity in the October 2002 edition of the APS news in an article entitled "Careers Committee Provides Crucial Services". Joanna Batstone has agreed to be the designated committee chair for 2003 pending APS approval.

Goals of CCPD

At our fall meeting, we spent considerable time working to refocus our efforts by establishing a mission statement and formulating a series of goals and objectives. As stated in the summary, the committee is reaching a point in its history where we need to look at our successes and failures and decide on future work. A draft of the mission statement reads: The mission of the APS Committee on Careers and Professional Development is to identify and address issues of careers and professional development for students, faculty, and physicists in the workforce; and provide new methods of information exchange and dissemination for the benefit of the APS community.

CPDL program

Membership in the CPDL program has not been growing. While there are some notable exceptions, the success of this program has been in opening up a conduit for communication with non-Research I universities. It has been very difficult to convince many of the larger universities that appointing a CPDL is a valuable idea. An informal phone poll to discuss the CPDL program as well as a review of many of the workshop comments suggests that there is a strong division between issues of interest to faculty at undergraduate and masters level institutions compared to Ph.D. granting institutions. In the future, addressing each of these groups needs rather than lumping them together would better serve us.

CPDL Workshops

This year's workshop, "Careers in industry - Preparing your students", took place on Sunday, March 17, 2002, in Indianapolis, just prior to the March Meeting. The workshop began with an informal Saturday evening reception and poster session followed the next morning by a half-day session comprising (1) a short presentation on education and career statistics (Roman Czujko, AIP), (2) presentations of three invited (confirmed) speakers, and (3) a forum discussion moderated by CCPD member Rajinder Koshla. The workshop ended with a lunch and presentation by Venky Narayanamurti, Dean of Engineering at Harvard. Reviews of this program were strong, but attendance was not nearly as high as we would have liked. Due to low attendance at the 2002 workshop, we have decided to not hold a 2003 CPDL workshop. While many faculty have attended in spite of not usually attending the March meeting, we are struggling with making this program work better.

CPDL Web Site

Essentially, no resources are allotted to developing materials for the CPDL web site. Depending on the volunteer work of committee members has not been effective.

Meeting Programming 2003

At the March meeting, we have worked with FIAP to organize an invited session entitled "Physics Careers in the Semiconductor Industry". Speakers will address how different universities are preparing students for the semiconductor industry including the development of graduate and undergraduate programs, majors, and courses. Speakers have been chosen to cover a range of viewpoints, such as relations with funding agencies such as SRC (Semiconductor Research Corporation) and the relationship with engineering disciplines. We will also invite speakers from industry to address what the opportunities are for physicists in the semiconductor industry and why physics is a critical area. This topic is particularly relevant for the meeting held in Austin, TX due to the large concentration of semiconductor companies in the area and the existence of several university programs to address these needs.

We are also sponsoring a tutorial entitled "Things your professors will never tell you" aimed at

Students and post docs considering their future career paths in both academic and non-academic pursuits. We hope to present several viewpoints from the school of hard knocks by physicists who have survived their first years beyond the degree and lived to tell about it. We will work with FGSA to publicize this event.

Meeting Programming 2002

The CCPD sponsored a half-day course titled "Management Problems of the Technical Person in a Leadership Role" the morning of March 17, 2002 in Indianapolis. The course will be primarily advertised to FIAP members. A similar short course took place at the 1999 Centennial meeting and was well received. Unfortunately, the attendance was quite low. While the committee considers professional development of APS members beyond their student years to be an important area, the difficulty in understanding how to generate interest in these types of programs indicates that this is a difficult problem to address. While we feel that using the APS in some way to provide professional development opportunities would be good for the members and strengthen their ties to the organization, this remains a difficult goal.

One new idea for meeting programming was tried initially for the April APS meeting. There are a number of educational and career oriented events at all national meetings. However, these are scattered throughout the program and sponsored by a number of different organizations. We worked this year to list these events on a single flyer that was passed out with the program bulletin at the beginning of the meeting. We are considering using this option as a method of distribution for a letter

Acknowledgements

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Respectfully submitted
For the Committee on Careers and Professional Development

Heather Galloway, Chair