

**APS Forum on Education**  
**Joint meeting of the AAPT Executive Board and the FEd Executive Committee**  
**Monday, August 2, 2004, California State University - Sacramento**  
**Notes by Ernie Malamud**

***Present:***

Ruth Chabay (AAPT), Wolfgang Christian (FEd), Jack Hehn (AIP), Ken Heller (AAPT), Paula Heron (FEd), Charles Holbrow (AAPT and FEd), Steve Iona (AAPT), Bernard Khoury (AAPT), Ernie Malamud (FEd), Peggy McMahan (FEd), Mary Beth Monroe (AAPT), James Nelson (AAPT), Deborah Rice (AAPT), Dick Peterson (AAPT), Chuck Robertson (AAPT), Tom Rossing (FEd), Gay Stewart (FEd), Jan Tobochnik (AAPT)

***(FEd) = voting or non-voting member of the FEd Executive Committee***

***(AAPT) = member of the AAPT Governing Board***

***(many present are members of both organizations)***

***Discussion:***

Charles Holbrow presided.

***APS Division invited sessions at AAPT National Meetings:***

The first of these, co-sponsored by the DPB (Division of Physics of Beams) and FEd had been held that afternoon.

[Personal opinion inserted by Ernie: the session was of mixed success: attendance was moderate, 50 – 75; attendance was overestimated by the AAPT Conference office leading to an overproduction of handouts (250) and too much food ordered for the reception; the A/V equipment was handled rather badly; some of the talks were really excellent.]

The next in this series will be sponsored by DAMOP and FEd at the 131<sup>st</sup> AAPT National Meeting, Salt Lake City, August 6 – 10, 2005.

The APS Division to present at the 133<sup>rd</sup> AAPT National Meeting, Syracuse New York, Summer 2006, has not yet been chosen.

It was suggested that next time there be an “email blast” to members of the sponsoring APS Division to attend the AAPT meeting.

[Another note added by Ernie: winter meetings are also possible.]

***General discussion of joint meetings:***

A general consensus is a regret that we no longer hold joint meetings as in the “good old days.” The APS has become less interested in the January meeting slot as the units became stronger in the 1990’s and began to hold their own unit meetings. There was a general feeling that there was a lessening interest in general meetings as specialization increased. The AAPT attempted to go to three national meetings/year, so in addition to the winter and summer meetings they joined with APS in the April meeting. But it was hard to maintain three national meetings and the joint April meeting was felt to be “weak.” So it was

dropped. Is there a way to get back to one joint meeting per year? The AAPT has a well-established January meeting. The APS has a well-established April meeting. Who gives up one of these?

Wolfgang proposed another idea: a joint meeting of AAPT with one APS Division, e.g. with DPF's annual (summer) meeting. This joint meeting could be with a different APS unit each year.

Tom suggested overlaps: 1 or 2 of the days of a meeting would be joint.

No consensus was reached but it is clear that this dialog should continue.

***New faculty workshop:***

These have been successful.

Ken suggested an "old faculty workshop." There was some discussion of just which people would come. Someone who has peaked in their research career and wants to focus more on teaching? Or aimed at midcareer faculty at 4-year colleges? What next? A proposal needs to be written and the backing of both societies obtained. No one at the meeting was identified to launch this effort.

***Exploration of other ways for AAPT and FEd to work together:***

1. The AAPT Announcer could be used as a vehicle for FEd newsletter articles.
2. Producing a "FEd COE AAPT" letterhead would be useful, e.g. in a letter of support to a government agency to show that all three organizations are on the "same wavelength."
3. Wolfgang suggested that the PER conference in alternate years be part of an APS meeting. Paula commented that the two PER sessions at the Denver APS meeting (May 1-4, 2004) were well received. It was also commented that there is active discussion underway for a PER journal as part of the Physical Review.
4. Dick Petersen feels that physics, i.e. the connection between the excitement of physics research to teaching, has to be made more visible at AAPT meetings.
5. The concept and audience for a resource handbook was discussed. Originally Tom Rossing had proposed this as a guide for physicists, particularly in industry or the national labs who wish to get involved in helping in schools (or science centers).
6. Teacher Licensure is an important issue. In tackling this (at a State level) APS and AAPT need to speak with one voice. FEd has approved expenditure of some funds (hopefully also with contributions from AAPT and COE) to "buy" a fraction of an APS staff member to get this organized. The first step is to contact all of the 50 state education offices and find out which states are currently revising teacher licensure requirements. Then, this APS staff member would contact selected FEd and AAPT members in those states where it is an issue and suggest how they can get involved and influence the outcome.

***In conclusion the consensus was that this was a useful meeting to explore issues of mutual interest and we should repeat such a meeting periodically.***