

**Joint Meeting: AAPT Board and APS FED Executive Committee
Greensboro, 7/28/2007
Minutes**

Present: Harvey Leff, David Haase, Toufic Hakim, Karl Malmola, Al Gibson, Warren Hein, Lila Adair, Gordon Ramsey, Chuck Roberts, Dwaine Debsian, Jack Hehn, David Meltzer, Alex Dickinson, Bernie Khoury, Steve Iona, John Roeder, Ken Heller, Jan Tobochnik, John Mallincrodt, Bruce Mason

Joint AAPT/APS Meeting:

Planning for the joint AAPT/APS meeting in February 2010 was discussed. The planning schedules for the two societies are very different, with AAPT arranging sessions a year ahead and APS much later. There were questions about the possibility of combining FED and AAPT sessions to reduce the overlap of education sessions. There needs to be coordination between the program chairs of the FED and the AAPT. AAPT Area Chairs also need to be involved in this planning. A joint meeting with AAPT could raise the influence of the FED on selecting Plenary speakers.

APS/AAPT Plenary Session:

One APS Division and the FED usually arrange a Plenary Session at the summer AAPT meetings. This did not happen this year because the scheduling did not occur soon enough. A session is being arranged for the winter AAPT in Baltimore. Communication on this matter between the FED and the AAPT should become routine.

Advanced Laboratory Initiatives:

The AAPT is starting several initiatives for supporting and enhancing the advanced laboratory experience. A list serve has been set up and is being used. ComPADRE will host a resource collection for these laboratories.

An Advanced Lab organization, AIPhA, is being started outside of the AAPT and APS. Jonathan Reichert from TeachSpin is spearheading this effort. There are currently about 100 members. Meetings and receptions are being held at APS and AAPT meetings. Being outside of AAPT and APS reflects the nature of laboratory instructors, who come from both societies have connections to both teaching and research. The FED has discussed supporting these efforts by holding APS sessions and workshops focused on laboratories.

There were questions about how AIPhA relates to the AAPT Committee on Laboratories. These included whether there should be a joint APS/AAPT committee or regular communications between this committee and AIPhA. All groups should collaborate in

making contacts and bringing together those involved in advanced laboratories. The AAPT is planning a topical conference on advanced labs for the summer of 2009.

Conference Funding:

Both the AAPT and the FEd received requests to help support the Gordon Research Conference on Physics and Education in 2008. There was some confusion because of the increased requests this year, for a total of about \$20k from all sources. The AAPT and APS have funded this conference in the past, but there is no policy for how to handle such requests. It would make sense if both the AAPT and the FEd have similar funding policies.

PhysTEC:

This is a joint project of the APS, AIP, and AAPT to encourage physics department involvement in teacher preparation. Universities are partner sites funded to support teacher development. Progress is good with 4 new sites and one school doing this on their own. A new grant proposal will be written. PhysTEC schools have had an impact on the numbers of teachers coming from physics departments and retention. Issues currently being explored are recruitment and assessment of teacher quality.

A question was asked about the relationship between PhysTEC and PTEC. PhysTEC is grant supported while PTEC is a broader consortium of institutions interested in teacher education. PTEC holds an annual conference and helps recognize and develop best practices. There is overlap in efforts between PhysTEC and PTEC.

Doubling Initiative:

The initiative to double the number of physics bachelor's graduates is being planned by representatives of the AAPT, APS, and AIP. Language supporting this has been approved by the APS board. Some of the recommendations are to expand PTEC, encourage departments to develop alternate curricula, and study students who graduate and do things other than traditional paths in physics. There is a study of departments that have 3 year physics curricula for students who are unprepared in their first year or who want to focus on other topics along with physics. There were concerns about such programs and their reception by physics faculty.

The AAPT will consider ways to support this initiative and future actions related to it. Information needs to be made available on non-traditional careers in physics and the low unemployment of physics majors. Grass roots efforts, at the undergraduate, high school, and middle school levels, to encourage more physics majors should be encouraged.