

AAPT/APS-FED UNDERSTANDING RE JOINT SESSIONS

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At the summer 2009 AAPT meeting, several members of the APS Forum on Education (FEd) Executive Committee met for an hour and a half with the AAPT Executive Board. Among the topics of discussion were the APS-FEd symposium that has been a feature of several recent AAPT meetings and the possible role of AAPT in organizing a couple of sessions to be mounted at the April APS meeting. Subsequent to the meeting of the FEd Executive Committee with the AAPT Executive Board, David Cook drafted a document summarizing the discussion. Later in the Ann Arbor meeting, these issues were discussed further by the AAPT Executive Board and, after the meeting was over, the document was redrafted to reflect comments made by members of the AAPT Executive Board. That draft was shared with Peter Collings and the AAPT Executive Board, Peter sent some comments, and the draft and Peter's comments were then discussed in a teleconference with the AAPT Executive Board. The draft was also discussed in a teleconference of the FEd Executive Committee, and as a result some changes were made. The text below was finally approved by the AAPT Executive Board and the FEd Executive Committee.

RE APS PLENARY SESSION AT SUMMER AAPT MEETING

In conjunction with a selected Unit of the American Physical Society (APS), the Forum on Education of the APS has planned a symposium for each of several recent meetings of the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT). These symposia have been arranged at Ann Arbor (Summer, 2009; DPP), Baltimore (Winter, 2008; DPF), Syracuse (Summer, 2006; DNP), Salt Lake City (Summer, 2005; DAMOP), and Sacramento (Summer, 2004; DPB). Both the AAPT and the FEd wish this event to become a regular component of the summer AAPT meeting. To that end, we agree that

- AAPT will allocate a 1.5-hour time slot at each summer meeting for a plenary session to be organized by the FEd in conjunction with one of the APS Units;
- The APS Unit to participate, the individual speakers to be involved, and the topics of their talks will be subject to approval by the AAPT Program Chair;
- The session will involve two or three outstanding invited speakers on topics addressing exciting contemporary research in the subarea of physics on which the involved Unit focuses;
- Each year the FEd and participating Unit will agree on how to fund the travel, meals, and housing for the invited speakers, plus any additional expenses associated with the session;
- AAPT will provide complimentary registration for the full AAPT meeting to the invited speakers of this session who are not AAPT members; and
- The invited speakers will be identified to the AAPT Program Chair by the end of December of the year before the year of the meeting so that the AAPT office can

send out formal invitations, and titles and abstracts can be submitted by the AAPT deadline (which is usually in late February or early March).

While the organizing of the session is to be carried out by the FEd and the associated APS Unit, the organizer of the session will consult frequently with and seek input regularly from the AAPT Program Chair as the session takes shape.

RE TWO AAPT SESSIONS AT APRIL APS MEETING

When the April meeting ceased to be a joint meeting between APS and AAPT, it was decided that two of the FEd invited sessions at the APS April meeting would be organized by AAPT. Both the AAPT and the FEd wish this practice to become a regular component of the April APS meeting. To that end, we agree that, starting with the April APS meeting in 2011 and annually thereafter when the April meeting is not joint between APS and AAPT,

- The FEd will allocate two of its allowed sessions at the April APS meeting for sessions to be organized by selected AAPT Area Committees;
- The AAPT Area Committees to participate, the topics of the sessions, the individual speakers to be involved, and the topics of their talks will be subject to approval by the Program Chair of the FEd;
- Each session will involve outstanding invited speakers on topics of concern to the Area Committee involved;
- AAPT has no funds to support this activity, but participation in this session and other non-technical sessions at the APS meeting does not require a registration fee. AAPT invited speakers who are not APS members may request to have their registration fee paid by the FEd if they wish to attend technical sessions. Partial travel allowances and support for other expenses associated with the session may also be requested of the FEd. Such requests should be made to the FEd Program Chair.
- The FEd and AAPT Program Chairs will begin to work together before the AAPT Summer meeting, and the participating AAPT Area Committees will be determined at the AAPT Summer Meeting. The FEd Program Chair will communicate the various deadlines for organizing sessions to the AAPT Program Chair and the participating AAPT Area Committees; and
- The APS office will send out formal invitations, including instructions for submitting titles and abstracts for inclusion in the program of the meeting.

While the organizing of the sessions is to be carried out by the organizers representing the involved AAPT Area Committees, the participating Area Committees and the AAPT Program Chair for the meeting will consult frequently with and seek input regularly from the Program Chair of the FEd as the sessions take shape.