

## Minutes of the GPAP Business Meeting at the APS-DPP 2018

November 5, 2018

Attendees included: Toshiki Tajima, Michael Brown, Ivo Furno, Masaaki Yamada, Spiros Antiochos, Bruno Coppi, Fatima Ebrahimi, Nuno Loureiro, Ian Hutchinson, Matt Kunz, Greg Howes, Hiroshi Gota, Kris Klein, Jonathan Squire, Dmitri Uzdensky, Mikhail Medvedev, Stas Boldyrev, Ales Necas, Jason TenBarge, Scott Nickes

### 1. Election of officers

- a. Vice-chair: Nuno Loureiro
- b. Members at large: Kris Klein
- c. Secretary-Treasurer: Ivo Furno
- d. Election participation is low and needs to be increased.

### 2. Election of fellows

- a. Fellowship awarded to Ben Chandran.
- b. Awarding fellowships is a good way for GPAP to gain visibility and generally positive. The committee for selecting fellows needs help finding candidates and deciding on one fellow.

### 3. Finances

- a. Finances are healthy because spending has been minimal. GPAP currently has a budgetary surplus of about \$2,000-3,000 and a total treasury of about \$40,000. This financial report was approved by vote.
- b. GPAP needs ideas on what to spend the budgetary surplus on:
  - i. Stand-alone workshop: APS DPP meeting is too large, and it would be helpful to have a smaller, more focused mini-conference for plasma-astrophysics. Doing so would be easy and inexpensive. Members should also be encouraged to bring students along.
  - ii. Summer school for plasma-astrophysics: It would directly further the goal of GPAP to sponsor the teaching of plasma physics at primarily astronomy programs, which could also serve as a way to recruit astronomy students into astrophysical plasmas.
  - iii. More presence/mini-sessions at APS: The goals of GPAP might be best served by creating a mini-session at the APS-DPP meeting rather than a full stand-alone meeting.
  - iv. GPAP Student Travel Fellowship: The budgetary surplus could be used to fund student participation in the APS-DPP meeting through travel fellowships. The highest priority is to get students involved at conferences (DPP) as much as possible, particularly astronomy, astrophysics or space physics students who may otherwise not attend, and who would benefit from experience of the plasma physics community and. At \$500 per student, approximately four such fellowships could be awarded per year. An executive committee would need to be formed to vet proposals and decide on the ultimate number of awards. This process should be done around June. As to not be too onerous, the application should be in a letter form, rather than a more lengthy-type

proposal. It would be important to advertise this fellowship on the website. **Vote proposed by Dr. Yamada and passed unanimously.** We should advertise this on our webpage so that students can apply to us for the attendance and scholarship. (The name of a fancy scholarship should be added).

#### **4. Collaborations with other organizations**

- a. IPELS meetings will be in Tokyo (2019) and Nizhny Novgorod in 2021. GPAP should collaborate more closely with IPELS, so that IPELS can participate in GPAP activities and perhaps broaden the IPELS meeting scope. Other organizations that GPAP should collaborate more closely are AGU, AAS, IZEST, and solar probe meeting. In all cases, members should be encouraged to bring students along as well.
- b. JM-EUSO (Extreme Universe Space Observatory) is a world organization of detecting highest cosmic rays from International Space Station (currently by balloon satellites). They are interested in novel acceleration mechanisms such as wakefields from AGN (so far correlated with gamma satellites such as Fermi) and interested in collaborate with GPAP.

#### **5. Announcements on meetings, workshops, mini-conference**

- a. (Addressed above)

#### **6. Public-private partnership**

- a. There is interest from US government to get involved in federal-entrepreneurial projects. As an example, in the recent visit by Secretary of Rick Perry Energy (and Dr. James van Dam) to TAE Technologies, such an idea was opened, and TAE looks to this in the future after accomplishing near-term goals, Hiroshi Gota reported. A goodwill motion by a private company can induce a matching motion by the public sector.

#### **7. News letter**

- a. The website has been fallow for a while and needs to be updated. Such things as information about conferences, student travel grants, and other opportunities for students should be listed on the website, to be updated yearly.

#### **8. Other topics**

- a. There is a great deal of similarity between fusion plasmas and astrophysical plasmas, and therefore support from the DoE should be continually pursued. There have been some issues with the DoE dismissing plasma astrophysics, and perhaps GPAP needs to speak up to maintain the DoE commitment for astrophysics plasmas. GPAP should also strive to increase the presence of plasma astrophysics in the ongoing decadal assessment of plasma science conducted by the National Academies to gather more support.
- b. GPAP membership seems to be approaching the minimum level of 400; recruitment is needed, particularly among young people. Student members would then be eligible for the travel fellowship discussed in paragraph 3.b.iv above.