

**Joint Meeting: AAPT Board and APS FEd Executive Committee
Syracuse, NY, 7/22/2006
Minutes**

Present – Bernie Khoury, Harvey Leff, Karl Mamoa, Lila Adair, Al Gibson, John Roeder, Bruce Mason, Peggy Mc Mahon, David Haase, Ken Heller, David Meltzer, Chuck Robinson, Ted Hodapp, Dick Peterson, Charlie Holbrow, Warren Hein, Mary Beth Monroe, Ruth Chabay, Dwain Desbian, Jack Hehn, Jan Tobochnik

Note: Al Gibson was at the 2005 Joint Meeting between the AAPT Board and the FEd.

Meetings:

There was a long discussion of joining the April APS and the Winter AAPT meetings. This is planned for February of 2010 in Washington DC, as a one year trial, similar to recent joint AAPT meetings with other societies. The issues identified as important for a joint meeting included the coordination of the programs, cost, and the future of such meetings. Some felt that several such meetings are needed for a reliable test. This is not planned, although there are questions about the future of the APS April meeting.

AAPT/APS Plenary Sessions:

The APS-organized Plenary Sessions at Summer AAPT meetings were praised. Questions arose about doing similar AAPT or educational plenary sessions at April APS meetings. This is not likely because plenary slots are limited and highly sought-after.

It was suggested that education sessions at APS Division and Section meetings are more likely. The help of the AAPT in identifying presenters and organizing these sessions would be useful.

Education Workshops:

Another example of promoting education is to hold workshops at APS meetings. Examples include recent and future workshops by the Open Source Physics group on Quantum Mechanics and Statistical Mechanics. Another example is the Teacher Days at APS meetings. Possible collaborations between the FEd and AAPT at these events include recruiting presenters from AAPT workshops, involving the PTRA in Teachers Days, sharing workshop materials and resources, and funding by the FEd and AAPT.

Other possible joint efforts are topical conferences on upper level courses or issues. Examples include the topical conference on General Relativity, Advanced Laboratories,

Nuclear Physics, Teaching and Research Assistants, Outreach, etc. These include both science and education, and can inform APS members not involved in the AAPT about AAPT resources and activities.

Lila and David will look into the possibility of a joint program committee between the FEd and AAPT to organize these events. It was suggested that membership on such a committee be three years for continuity. Currently, because of the one year term of most program chairs, experience is lost.

Funding and Governmental Relations:

There was a discussion of funding sources for education and that funding is moving from the NSF to the Department of Education. Recent changes made NSF responsible for research in education by not implementation. Concerns about this were expressed, in particular the support for undergraduate and graduate education. Strategies to address this were discussed. APS is working through their Washington Office and a letter writing campaign. AAPT is discussing a similar grass-roots effort. This might be a good topic for an article or even an issue of the FEd Newsletter, as well as articles in Physics News, FYI, and other outlets. Also discussed was the use of block funding for education, informing the PER community about these changes, and efforts to increase accountability in higher education through testing. Accountability requirements bring up issues of accreditation and research on assessment.

PERC:

The venue of the PER Conference was discussed. In a straw poll at a Research in Physics Education Committee meeting, about 1/3 of the audience expressed some interest in holding the PERC at an APS meeting from time to time. The PER Community is connected to the AAPT, but also sees benefits in more interactions with the APS. Education sessions at AAPT are fairly well attended, but many sessions are more related to outreach than PER. There would be greater PER attendance at APS meetings if the PERC was held there. On the other hand, there is a concern that moving the PERC could lower attendance, particularly the non-researchers who attend both the AAPT meeting and PERC. About 40% of the AAPT meeting attendees stay for the PERC.

It was suggested that PERLOC investigate this further. A survey at a PERC, including all attendees, was recommended.