

Minutes
GPMFC Executive Committee Meeting
Anaheim, CA
Wednesday, June 6, 2012

Present: Jun Ye (Chair), Stuart Freedman (Chair-Elect), Mike Romalis (Vice-Chair), Fred Wietfeldt (Sec/Treas), Mike Chapman, Kristan Corwin, Chen-Yu Liu, Holger Müller, Mark Raizen

Newly-elected members present: Eric Hudson (At-Large)

Graduate Student Representative: Travis Nicholson

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 PM.

The newly-elected members and graduate student representative were welcomed.

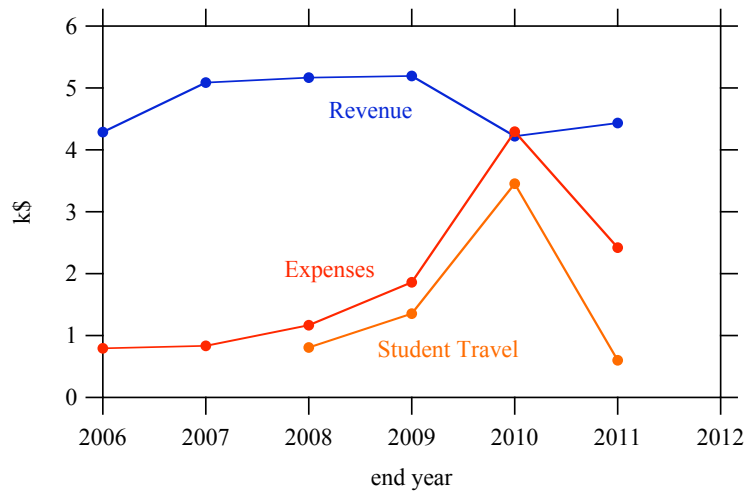
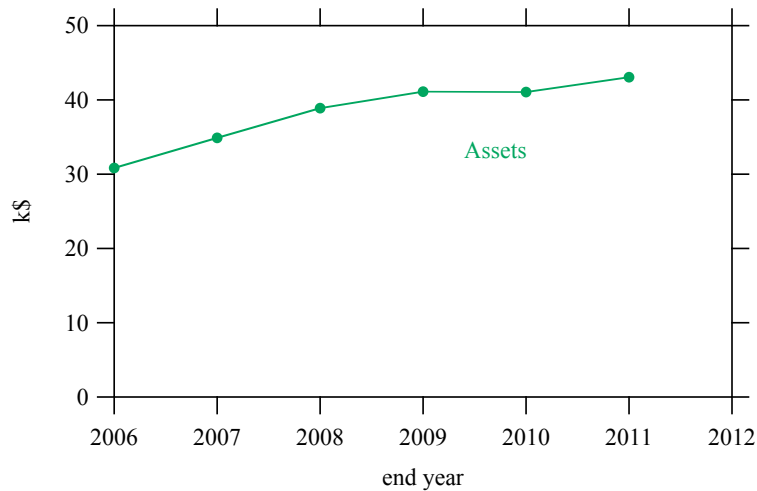
Election: Fred reported that 176 members voted online and 3 by mail in the 2012 election, out of 458 eligible members, for an overall participation rate of 39.1%, somewhat higher than the past two years and good compared to the APS-wide level of about 25%. The increase may be attributable to extra email reminders sent out, in particular urging student members to vote. Newly elected are Vice-Chair Dima Budker (U.C. Berkeley) and At-Large Executive Committee Members Eric Hudson (UCLA) and Tanya Zelevinsky (Columbia).

Membership: Group membership is at an all-time high of 458, tracking fairly closely with APS membership which surpassed 50,000 for the first time. GPMFC remains a bit less than 1% of total APS and we would like to grow beyond that. It was discussed that word-of-mouth is an effective recruiting method. If members, in particular Principle Investigators, encourage their students and other colleagues to join GPMFC it would help increase our numbers.

Finances: Fred reported that total revenue exceeded expenses in 2011 by \$2010, which increased the total assets of the Group by 4.9% to 43,065. Student travel support, normally the largest expense, was down last year but based on current applications appears to be back up to normal this year so we can expect close to a balanced budget for 2012. The goal is to make as many student travel awards as allowed for an approximately balanced budget each year. The Pipkin award is in good shape as income on the endowment exceeds projected award payout and expenses by about a factor of two. Therefore it would be financially possible to consider increasing either the frequency or the size of the award, currently \$2000 awarded biennially. There followed some discussion of the pros and cons of doing this. Some felt that awarding more often would dilute the impact. Others thought that there is enough excellent work done by young scientists in the Topical Group to merit an annual award. Any change in the award would require approval by the APS

Council. It was agreed not to take any action at this time but to consider it again at next years' meeting.

GPMFC Financial Picture



Program: Jun reported that GPMFC co-sponsored (with FHP) an invited session at the March meeting for the first time this year, on the history of metrology. There were also two extremely popular GPMFC invited sessions at this DAMOP meeting. In fact the 200-seat room proved far too small as the standing room only audience spilled out into the hallway at both sessions. During discussion it was pointed out that attendance at GPMFC invited sessions at the April 2011 meeting was much weaker, and suggested that in future we might have one or more permanent invited slots at DAMOP instead of alternating years with the April meeting. On the other hand, as a topical group we should strive to sustain our interdisciplinary breadth to

remain inclusive of physics not normally represented at DAMOP. Jun agreed to approach the APS and DAMOP leadership and try to work out a solution whereby GPMFC would permanently co-sponsor a session at DAMOP without giving up slots at the April meeting.

Nominating: Holger reported that the nominations process went fairly well despite getting a late start.

Fellowship: Mike reported that the Fellowship Committee made its recommendations for new APS Fellows and sent the list to Shelly Johnston at APS. The other committee members were Bill Marciano and Richard Davis.

2013 Pipkin Award: Jun proposed a list of committee members that was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee. Final approval is needed by the APS President. The deadline for nominations is August 1, 2012. APS will soon send out an announcement with nominating instructions. Fred will include a similar announcement in the June newsletter. Note: Shortly afterward APS imposed a few additional constraints on the committee composition. The committee members are now Leo Hollberg (Chair), James Faller (Vice-Chair), Mike Romalis (previous recipient), Geoffrey Greene, and Eric Cornell.

2012 APS Unit Convocation: Fred represented GPMFC at the APS Unit Convocation this year, held April 20-21 at the American Center for Physics in College Park, MD. To this annual event APS invites officers of all divisions, topical groups, forums, and sections for presentations and group discussions on issues of importance to the Society. This year much of the discussion focused on the new APS Strategic Plan. Also several new teaching and outreach resources were introduced – Fred will describe these briefly in the June newsletter.

New membership drive: Kristan reported that 5 new members were signed at the 2011 April meeting and so far 15 at the 2012 DAMOP meeting. Each year she announces this drive at the GPMFC-sponsored invited sessions and brings sign-up sheets. New members signed up at the session get their first year free. This effort has been quite successful in attracting new members. Chen-Yu Liu agreed to take over recruiting duties for GPMFC as Kristan is now rotating off the Executive Committee. Many thanks to Kristan for initiating this program!

Deslattes Award and related discussions: Three years ago the then-GPMFC Chair submitted a proposal to APS for a new award for precision measurement to be named for Richard Deslattes. The proposal was returned by APS unapproved, but with some suggestions toward resubmission. Jun reported that he spent some time on it this past year and from informal discussions with senior members of the community he found that the level of enthusiasm for an award named for Deslattes does not seem high enough to justify an effort to resubmit. Instead it was suggested that we consider a major APS Prize (\$10k or more) sponsored by GPMFC that would be named for Norman Ramsey. Enthusiasm for this is very high and in light of

Norman's recent passing the required fundraising (minimum \$250k) seems likely to succeed. Following some discussion separate motions were made to 1) drop plans for a Deslattes Award and 2) proceed with a new plan for a Ramsey Prize. Both motions passed unanimously. Jun agreed, in his capacity as Past Chair this coming year, to lead this effort and to submit a proposal to APS for the Ramsey Prize.

APS Child Care proposal: The APS Committee on the Status of Women in Physics recommends that all APS Units subsidize child care at their meetings to help members with young children attend. Fred discussed this last year with Deanna Ratnikova of APS, who proposed that we participate in the program already in place for the April meeting. It would cost \$250 to participate in the next April meeting, representing a 10% contribution. This was approved in 2011 by the Executive Committee. DAMOP does not yet have such a program in place but when it does GPMFC may participate in that as well.

APS Strategic Plan: Fred presented the new APS Strategic Plan and briefly discussed some of its main objectives. A copy of the Strategic Plan may be found here: <http://www.aps.org/about/strategy/index.cfm>

New Committee Chairs: The following committee chairs for 2012-2013 were approved by the Executive Committee:

Program Committee: Stuart Freedman
Fellowship Committee: Dima Budker
Nominating Committee: Eric Hudson

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

GPMFC Executive Committee

	2010 May DAMOP	2011 April APS	2012 June DAMOP	2013 April APS	2014 May DAMOP	2015 April APS
Chair	Blayne Heckel	Jun Ye	Stuart Freedman	Michael Romalis	Dmitry Budker	
Chair-Elect	Jun Ye	Stuart Freedman	Michael Romalis	Dmitry Budker		
Vice-Chair	Stuart Freedman	Michael Romalis	Dmitry Budker			
Past Chair	John Gillaspay	Blayne Heckel	Jun Ye	Stuart Freedman	Michael Romalis	
Sec/Treas	Fred Wietfeldt					
At-Large	Mark Raizen					
At-Large	Chen-Yu Liu					
At-Large	Zheng Tian Lu	Bill Marciano				
At-Large	Dave Kawall	Holger Mueller				
At-Large	Michael Chapman		Eric Hudson			
At-Large	Kristan Corwin		Tanya Zelevinsky			