

**Minutes of the AAPT-CPS Spring Executive Board Meeting  
Penn State Mont Alto, Mont Alto, PA  
Saturday, November 3, 2007**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gregory Dolise, Michael Doncheski, Abul Hasan, Sardari Khanna, Kelly Kriebel, Dave McCachren, John Reid, and Dave Richards.

**MINUTES:**

President Abul Hasan called the luncheon meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**I. Review Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes for the March 23, 2007 meeting. (motion: John, second: Greg). Minutes approved.

**II. Secretary's Report (Mike Doncheski)**

Since the last meeting of the Executive Board, we conducted business via email exchange; topics of discussion focused on the Spring 2008 general meeting to be held at Lock Haven University, namely the date of the meeting (April 4-5, 2008) and the invited speaker (Dr. Stephen Fonash, PSU University Park). Additionally, Mike proposed Dr. Francis Halzen as the invited speaker for the Spring 2009 Conference.

An item was brought up at this time: the official name and acronym for our section. Both the Central Pennsylvania Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (CPS-AAPT) and the American Association of Physics Teachers – Central Pennsylvania Sections (AAPT-CPS) have been in use. Abul suggested that we identify ourselves first as part of AAPT and as the CPS second. Listing AAPT first more clearly identifies the group. The Executive Board approved the use of the American Association of Physics Teachers – Central Pennsylvania Section (AAPT-CPS) and no other name or title at General meetings, at Executive Board meetings and on all correspondence.

**III. Treasurer's financial report and membership report (Dari Khanna)**

Dari updated us on the details of the budget. He reported the balances:

CD account	\$3500.00
checking account	\$ 508.94.

Dari also provided an itemized list of estimated and actual costs associated with the Spring 2007 general meeting held at Penn State York, with a total estimated expense of \$2285 and total actual expense of \$2755. Dari also noted that 40-50 dues paying members of AAPT-CPS attended the general meeting at Penn State York. Dave R. noted that the membership spreadsheet contains data on membership and attendance for the past three general meetings, in other words, a three year record. The Executive Board also agreed to expand that the banquet fee would be waived for students who present at an annual spring section conference; students who attend but do not present would continue to attend the banquet at half the price.

**IV. Section Representative's Report (Kelly Kriebel)**

Kelly was not able to attend the Summer meeting, nor did he receive the minutes from the Summer meeting. Kelly did note that the Executive Board of AAPT has \$13k available PTRAs by AAPT sections. AAPT has approximately 40 national sections; assuming \$3k per award, most sections will not benefit from this source of funding. Dave M. will look into this as a possible source of funding.

**V. High School Representative's report (Dave McCachren)**

Dave reported that the PTRA workshop at Penn State Mont Alto was exceptionally successful, with 15, geographically diverse, participants. Five of the 15 participants took part in the Rural Institute and one participant was new to PTRA workshops. The PTRAs serve as an opportunity for physics teachers to get together and “talk physics”.

The PTRA workshop to be held at Loch Haven University will be “Analysis of Digital Movies with Vernier Logger Pro.”

Dave M. also noted that funding for the PTRA program is disappearing. The NSF funding (Math Science Consortium) has no additional funding available for Pennsylvania. The PTRA program, historically, is of great benefit, especially for teachers at small high schools with only one physics teacher. Dave noted that, in the past, PTRA funding was obtained by proposing a new “twist,” for example, during one grant cycle, the focus of PTRA was on teachers in an urban setting; during the next grant cycle, the focus of PTRA was on teachers in a rural setting. Another new “twist” could extend the funding (perhaps a focus on new teachers with 0-3 years of teaching experience). Another possible source of funding is the private sector, for example the Tyco Foundation associated with Tyco Electronics in Harrisburg.

**VI. Two-year College Representative's report (Gregory Dolise)**

Greg reported on an updated list of physics teachers in our section; he updated the list of High School teachers (straightforward) and is in the process of updating the 2- and 4-year college physics teachers (more challenging). A variety of suggestions were offered as to easing the burden of identifying and contacting all college physics teachers: searching for email addresses, checking physics course offerings at the colleges, search faculty web pages, etc. One of the biggest challenges is the growing dependence of “permanent part-timers,” adjunct faculty who teach regularly but are not full-time members of the faculty at the institution for which they teach. John and Abul offered that the remaining members of the executive board could assist in contacting physics faculty and that Greg delegate some of the responsibility.

Greg also noted that many to most of the physics teachers he contacted were unaware of our section, nor were they members of the national AAPT group. In order to increase our visibility, we could set up a membership list on a web site, possibly purchase the domain rights to AAPT-CPS.org, and/or start a monthly (bi-annual?) section wide seminar.

Additionally, to increase attendance at the general meeting, we need to attract both

students and faculty. We could cover the full banquet cost for students who present a poster, though students would still be uncertain as to projects which are suitable and would still have a fear of presenting to practicing physicists. Guidelines for a poster session or good poster project could be provided on our website and in the mailings.

## **VII. Past President's Report**

Dave R. reports that he has a template for the newsletter ready, but needs content. All members of the Executive Board should provide a biographical sketch in time for the first mailing for the Spring general meeting.

## **Old Business**

### **VIII. Website Issues: CPS website**

We have a section website for the Executive Board, hosted at Juniata College; this is an old website, no longer **actively** maintained. We need to address two issues, host and maintainer(s). The section website should not be tied to any individual or institution; if it is, it will only be maintained as long as the host remains active in AAPT-CPS. Kelly suggested the possibility of having our section page hosted by AAPT; contact Toufic Hakim (the current executive officer of AAPT) to determine whether this is a possibility. A second possibility (noted above) is to purchase the rights to a domain (e.g., AAPT-CPS.org). This would maintain continuity, i.e., the website address would never change, but at the same time, the temporary host website could change yearly. Abul called for volunteers to update and maintain the AAPT-CPS website; John volunteers with assistance by Dave R.

### **IX. Review of Database for mailing**

As noted above, Greg is in the process of updating the mailing list.

### **X. Pictures of Representatives with brief bio-date**

As noted above, Dave R. needs pictures and biographical sketches for the newsletter.

### **XI. Review of Officer's Duties**

Dave R. notes that the duties are listed on the website and should remain available for the future.

## **New Business**

### **XII. Mailing Survey results**

Abul presented the results of the AAPT-CPS Mailing Survey; of 28 respondents: "All regular mail" and "No preference" had one vote each; "One mail and two email" had

eight votes; "All emails" had 18 votes. Despite the majority voting for email only, the Executive Board decided to continue with a mix of mail and email announcements, gradually changing to all email; the new model will be: one regular mail and two email announcements if we have a current email address, two regular mail announcements if we do not have a current email address.

### **XIII. Spring 2008 Meeting at Lock Haven University**

#### **1. Keynote Speaker**

The proposed speaker for the 2008 Spring meeting at Lock Haven University, Dr. Stephen J. Fonash, was approved. The talk is scheduled from 8:00pm through 9:00pm on April 4, 2008, with 40 minutes for the talk and 20 minutes for questions.

#### **2. Banquet**

The banquet will be scheduled from 6:00pm through 7:30pm (meal to be served at 6:30pm) on April 4, 2008.

#### **3. PTR A Workshop**

The PTR A workshop registration will be held from 8:00am through 8:30am on April 4, 2008. The workshop itself will be held from 8:30am through 3:30pm on April 4, 2008.

#### **4. Vendors**

Vendors will display from 4:00pm through 6:00pm on April 4, 2008, coinciding with the Conference registration and the Poster session.

#### **5. Mailings (when, what type, how many)**

See above, under XII. Mailing Survey results.

#### **6. Other Details**

The Executive Board decided to try a new Conference schedule, with Registration, Banquet and Public Lecture on Friday, April 4, 2008 and Talks on Saturday, April 5, 2008. In addition to the Conference items discussed previously, there will be a stargazing session on Friday, April 4, 2008 after the Public Lecture, nominally from 9:00pm to 11:00pm. After an 8:00am to 8:30am breakfast, the Conference will begin with the AAPT-CPS General Meeting, 8:30am to 9:30am. It will be followed by the first parallel session from 9:30am to 12:00pm, lunch from 12:00pm to 1:00pm and a tour of LHU Facilities from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. The Conference will close after the second parallel session scheduled from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. The Executive Board will meet immediately after the conclusion of the conference.

**XIV. Keynote speaker for Spring 2009 Meeting at Penn State Mont Alto**

Mike proposed Dr. Francis Halzen as the speaker for the Spring 2009 AAPT-CPS Conference. The Executive board approved.

**XV. High School Teachers Recognition Program**

An award will be given, at the discretion of the host institution, to a high school physics teacher in the host institution's county for "contributions to the field of physics." If such an award is to be given, the presentation will occur immediately prior to the public lecture.

**XVI. Award to Recognize High School Student**

An award will be give, at the discretion of the host institution, to a high school physics student of note. If such an award is to be given, the presentation will occur immediately prior to the public lecture.

**XVII. Nominations for Secretary and update of Board Membership**

At the General Meeting at Lock Haven, the President will present a slate of candidates for the new Executive Board; John Reid will be nominated as President, Mike Doncheski will be nominated as Vice President and Sardari Khanna will be nominated as Treasurer. As outgoing President, Abul Hasan will take the post as past-President. Abul asked for nominations for the position of Secretary of the next Executive Board; no nominations were forthcoming and this item was tabled until the General Meeting.

**XVIII. Other Business and Adjournment**

There was no other business, and the meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Doncheski  
Secretary, AAPT-CPS