

## Illinois Section American Association of Physics Teachers

Minutes of the Council Meeting  
Bradley University, Olin Hall of Science, Room 45  
Saturday, October 16, 2004

*These minutes were sent to the Council members for their review on Oct. 18, 2004.  
Action on them will be taken at the Spring meeting in April, 2005.*

The meeting of the Executive Council was called to order by President Mark Boley at 7:05 a.m. Also in attendance were Doug Franklin, Eric Peterson, Bill Hogan, Dave Renneke, Ann Brandon, Deborah Lojkutz, Diana Roth, Gary Wolber, Roger Reeves, Ken Mellendorf, Steve Weber, Dave Sykes, Carl Wenning, Duane Ingram, and Kimberly Shaw. The following business was addressed:

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report:** The minutes of the Spring meeting were distributed, reviewed, and approved without correction. Carl Wenning noted as part of the Treasurer's report that he had received no bills from the hosts of the Spring section meeting even after contacting them several times. This has resulted in an increase in the standard balance of the Section of approximately \$2,000. The Treasurer's report was likewise approved without correction.

**Section Representative's Report:** Dave Sykes noted that his term as section rep was expiring, having completed the one-year unexpired term of Curt Hieggelke. He would be unable to continue as section representative due to his unavailability to attend the next two national meetings. Dave provided a written report which noted that the AAPT now has long-term savings equivalent to its annual budget, there are grants available of up to \$1,000 for AAPT members to conduct outreach activities as part of the 2005 World Year of Physics, and that there will be a contest for the recognition of 2005 students (ages 10-19) worldwide (116 from the US) for their involvement in and/or contributions to physics. An elaborate scoring system is being set up to determine the students chosen and many teachers will be asked to participate in the judging.

**Representative to the AAPT High School Committee Report:** Ann Brandon reported on the 2005 rocketry contest application, innovative high school teacher grants, the financial benefits of volunteering at AAPT national meetings, year 2005 candidates for AAPT national offices, and research in freefall. Complete details on each topic should be available on the ISAAPT web page. Ann also provided information about the IIT bridge building contest which will be held on April 23 and provide the winners with a scholarship.

**Publicity Chair, Section Editor, and Webmaster Report:** Dave Renneke reported that all continues to move smoothly with the ISAAPT Web pages. He noted that there recently had been a snafu with communicating information about the Spring meeting of the section to the national office. He noted that it is unfortunate that Mike Bush's picture as Outstanding High School Physics Teacher for 2004 was not published. They did not publish the news of our Spring meeting and did not acknowledge receipt of the report. Dave suggested that this problem stems from the fact that there is no other name than that of "webmaster" to whom section reports are now sent. Minutes for the meeting, treasurer's and section rep's reports are now online. Mark commended David for his hard work on behalf of the Section.

**Newsletter Editor Report:** Roger Reeves reported that all continues well with the Illinois Physics Teacher, but that the mailing list appears to be in need of update. Currently there are about 450 mailings, many going to individuals who have not attended a section meeting for many years. He suggested that the list be updated some how to "reach the right people." He also noted that expenses are going up for postage and printing. Mark thanked Roger for his diligent efforts on behalf of the membership.

**Outstanding High School Physics Teacher Award Report:** Diana Roth noted that the call for nominations has been communicated to high school principals through the network of the Regional Offices of Education in Illinois. She thanked Dave and Roger for helping to get the word out through the Section's Web pages and newsletter. Diana noted that seven new nominations had been received recently. She also lamented the fact that despite invitations to attend section meetings, no award winners from recent years had taken advantage of the free offer. She indicated that sending invitations earlier might affect attendance of these individuals.

**Committee for Distinguished Service Citation Report:** Roger Reeves reported that Charles Schulz from Knox College had been nominated for the award. He also noted how well the electronic vote had gone with the Council to approve of the nomination. He thanked Fred Zurheide and Kimberly Shaw for having had the plaque made and transported to the meeting in very rapid order.

**Nominations Report:** Gary Wolber reported that he has obtained the agreement of the following individuals to run for elective office and to serve on the Executive Council:

- President-Elect: Bill Hogan, Joliet Junior College
- High School Rep, 4 year term: Chris LaRoche, Sherrard High School

- 2-year College Rep, 4 year term: Kenneth Mellendorf, Illinois Central College
- 4-year College Rep, 4 year term: Brian Davies, Western Illinois University
- Filling Bill Hogan's unexpired term as 2-year rep: 1 year term: Rob Mason, Olney Central College
- Section Rep: unfilled at time of Council meeting

**Report on Special Session Activities:** Carl Wenning and Kimberly Shaw gave a short overview of the activities of the special pre-session workshop held at Illinois Central College on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. It was reported that surveys of teacher candidate and in-service physics teachers had yielded some rather surprising results. A group of about ten individuals worked for more than seven hours to identify key findings, and make recommendations for appropriate actions to increase recruitment and retention of teachers. Both noted that a detailed report would be presented in two talks beginning at 11:00 a.m.

**Fall Meeting Report:** No representative from Bradley was present at this point in the meeting. Carl noted that he would provide information about the meeting when it became available.

**Future Meetings:** Future section meeting will be held according to the following schedule:

- April 8-9, 2005, Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville. Kim Shaw noted that there would be a special invited guest speaker, Stan Parkinson, presenting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening. Parkinson is one of the founders of the GPS system. The theme of the meeting would be "Einstein's Contributions to Optics and Photonics" and would include additional special considerations for the 2005 World Year of Physics. The Saint Louis Area Physics Teachers are expected to play a role in this meeting.
- Fall 2005, Riverside-Brookfield High School, Riverside. While neither was present at the Council meeting, it was noted that the meeting would be hosted by Troy Gobble and Zach Knott. It was further noted that there is concern about the lack of space and hotel accommodations. This will be a joint meeting between ISAAPT and the Chicago Section.
- Spring 2006, Illinois Central College, East Peoria. Ken Mellendorf noted that things are looking good for a meeting. No details about the meeting are available at this time.
- Fall 2006, tentatively at Rock Island High School, Gary Wolber hosting. Gary noted that there is now a new administration at the school and that in order for the ISAAPT to meet there, we would have to show evidence of \$1M/\$2M/\$500k (single/multiple incident/property damage) liability insurance. (A brief discussion followed in relation to incorporating the ISAAPT and obtaining insurance. See new business for details.)

**Old Business:** The following topics were addressed under the heading of Old Business:

1. Physics Guidebook Program – Carl suggested that *Five Easy Lessons: Strategies for Successful Physics Teaching* by Randall D. Knight be added to the approved listing. This was agreed upon. In addition, the book approved last year (*Hands-on Physics Activities with Real-life Applications* by James Cunningham and Norman Herr) will also be added to the listing on the Section's web page. Carl noted that with increased PTE enrollment at ISU (now 33 declared majors) that the cost of the program is bound to go up.
2. Year of Physics Events at ISTA Meetings – Kim and Carl noted that one of the recommendations stemming from the pre-session workshop was that the Section offer a special workshop for rural teachers dealing with mechanics be held at the ISTA meeting held at Knox College next April. It was agreed that this would be an appropriate action plan. Carl and Kim will pursue a \$1000 support grant from the AAPT national office. Carl will contact the ISTA leadership about doing so. In conversation later in the morning, Chuck Schulz agreed to assist with planning and facilitation of the effort. He also suggested contacting Linda Dybas in biology at Knox College.

**New Business:** The following topics were addressed under the heading of New Business:

1. Incorporation – Carl was authorized to incorporate the ISAAPT in McLean County Illinois for the purpose of protection of the legal fiduciaries. The Section's Secretary/Treasurer will serve as Official Registered Agent.
2. Insurance – Carl will pursue the cost of insuring the Section as required by the Rock Island school district. He will report his findings back to the Council before taking any action.
3. Carl asked that the Council extend the Guidebook Program to alternative certification physics teacher candidates. The Council agreed to make guidebooks available to these candidates with a 50% cost-sharing match. Either the candidate's institution or the candidate can match the ISAAPT contribution.
4. Presentation Abstracts – Carl lamented the fact that the length of paper abstracts published in the agenda have gotten out of control, some reaching nearly a full page in length. He suggested that abstracts be limited to 150 words (exclusive of title and presenter information), with longer abstracts submitted via the website being returned to the authors for revision. It was agreed that this modification would be made, and that Dave Renneke would put a word limit on the abstract section of the submission form.
5. PTE Program Survey – Carl noted a need for a survey of the 23 institutions of higher learning in Illinois that supposedly graduate physics teachers. To this end, he asked that an Ad Hoc committee be appointed with a non-teacher educator heading it up. The following individuals volunteered to serve: Ken Mellendorf (chair), Kimberly Shaw, Dave Sykes, and Carl Wenning.

**Announcement:** Ann noted that the Chicago Section meeting will be held at Joliet West High School on Saturday, November 6, 2004. Two invited talks will include "The Physics of Sky Diving" and "The Physics of Trumpets." ISAAPT members are welcome to attend.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Post Scripts:** The following items are added for informational purposes:

- Elections: Subsequent to the morning meeting of the Executive Council, Tom Snyder agreed to serve as Section Representative for one year. His name was added to the list of nominees. At the noon business meeting all candidates for office were elected to the positions for which they had been nominated.
- Registration Report of this Meeting. There were 48 faculty pre-registrants and 13 student pre-registrants.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl J. Wenning  
ISAAPT Secretary

### Treasurer's Report Spring Meeting 2005

Date	Transaction	Payment	Deposit	Balance
11 Oct 04	<b>Prior Balance</b>			<b>\$5,626.65</b>
16 Oct 04	Hillsboro CUSD #3 (IPT postage)	(\$73.43)		
16 Oct 04	Journal Printing Co (Fall IPT printing)	(\$147.00)		
18 Oct 04	Fred Zurheide (DSC plaque)	(\$53.30)		
18 Oct 04	Special Session*: M. Lorber honorarium & mileage	(\$133.75)		
18 Oct 04	Special Session*: L. Steffen honorarium & mileage	(\$133.75)		<b>\$5,085.42</b>
18 Oct 04	Faculty (48*\$15) and student (7*\$5) registrations		\$755.00	
18 Oct 04	Student Research Symposium fees (48*\$3)		\$144.00	
18 Oct 04	Dues (47 new & renewing members)		\$235.00	
18 Oct 04	Special Session workshop fee		\$70.00	
18 Oct 04	Banquet and Luncheon fee		\$865.00	
18 Oct 04	Registration overage		\$1.00	
	Subtotals/Net	(\$541.23)	\$2,070.00	
	<b>Current Balance</b>			<b>\$7,155.42</b>

Total special pre-session budget: \$500 (AAPT grant) + \$70 (workshop registrations) = \$570