

**DPF Executive Committee Meeting  
DPF2009 at Wayne State University**

**July 28, 2009**

**Attending**

**DPF EC:** Chip Brock, Bob Cahn, Janet Conrad, Cecilia Gerber, Al Goshaw, JoAnne Hewett, Boris Kayser, Patty McBride, Ritchie Patterson, Kevin Pitts, David Saltzberg

Regrets: Andreas Kronfeld

**Agenda and minutes**

The DPF EC Chair Boris Kayser convened the meeting at 7:00pm on July 28, 2009.

**1. Report from DPF2009 Co-chairs.**

Paul Karchin and Alexey Petrov made a brief report on their experience with organizing the DPF2009 meeting. They started by contacting previous organizers of DPF conferences to learn from their experiences. They pointed out the problem that large collaborations send in abstracts right at the deadline, thus causing problems for session organizers. In the future they suggested it would be useful to have a list of tasks with dates that are required for organizing this conference, and agreed to prepare such a list. They also suggested that for future DPF meetings, the organizing committee include someone from the previous meeting.

The DPF EC members offered their thanks to Alexey and Paul for their excellent organization of this year's conference.

**2. Discussion of future DPF meetings**

There followed a discussion of how to improve the impact and usefulness of the dedicated DPF meetings. The proximity of EPS this year was noted as a problem. Also the rather odd schedule of meetings dates tends to diminish international recognition. There was general consensus that a regular two-year cycle would allow better planning and integration into the international HEP conference calendar. The value of a meeting devoted entirely to HEP in addition to the April APS/DPF meeting was noted.

It was agreed that the EC should organize a study of how to strengthen the DPF Conference series.

**3. A jobs web site for post doc theory applications**

A proposal presented by Sekhar Chivukula at the last DPF EC meeting (May 4, 2009) was further discussed. He pointed out that the duplication of applications and reference letters could be greatly reduced by making use of a central "Physicsjobs" web site similar to the one already in operation for "Mathjobs". A web-based job site sponsored by the American Math Society has been in operation since 2000 and is used by over 200 Mathematics Departments in North America. The site [academicjobsonline.org](http://academicjobsonline.org) is now open to other users,

A request was made by Sekhar for the DPF EC to formally endorse this proposal. The EC members were in favor of sending a letter of support to the DPF membership, after clarification of some security and privacy issues. Boris will follow up with a letter to Sekhar about this. Chip agreed to draft the EC cover letter that would accompany the message describing this web site. JoAnne agreed to monitor the progress of this new procedure for distributing letters of recommendation for theory post docs.

#### **4. Proposal for a Study Abroad Program at CERN**

Chip Brock described a proposal to establish a study abroad program at CERN for US undergraduate students. The proposal, provided to the EC by Homer Neal, was distributed to the EC members. Chip reviewed some background for this proposal, including a meeting in June 1, 2009 that was used to explore support for this concept. Cecilia suggested that we contact Alice Bean, who directs a similar program for undergraduates (PIRE). The EC was in favor of supporting a study of this program as presented by Homer Neal. It was agreed that the DPF would provide up to \$10K for evaluation of this concept. Chip agreed to follow up with a letter to Homer describing the EC discussion, and requesting a specific use for the DPF funding.

#### **5. APS international travel grants for developing countries**

Kevin Pitts summarized his participation in an APS committee that reviews requests for support of students from developing countries to work with research groups in the US. The Committee received 19 applications, and has narrowed the winners to students from Beirut and Johannesburg for \$2000 travel grants.

#### **6. General discussion of DPF support of US HEP science**

The EC members continued a discussion from the May 5, 2009 EC meeting on the general role of the DPF in strengthening the US HEP program.

Relevant to University programs, the Chair of HEPAP, Mel Shochet, formed a sub-committee to bring any problems in the program to the attention of HEPAP and the agencies. The current members of the subcommittee are: Martina Artuso (Syracuse), Alice Bean (Kansas), Sarah Eno (Chair, Maryland), Boris Kayser (FNAL), Dan Marlow (Princeton) and Hank Sobel (Irvine). This sub-committee sent out a survey to university HEP PI's. There was a 40% institutional response. There is now an effort to contact non-responders to obtain better participation. The results of this survey will then be reported to HEPAP.

A general discussion followed about roles the DPF EC might play in contributing to the planning of the US HEP science program. It was agreed that this discussion would continue after collecting some information from the most recent P5 committee and the HEPAP Chair Mel Shochet.

#### **Action items:**

- After clarification of security/privacy issues, distribute a message to the DPF membership expressing the EC's endorsement of a proposal for introduction of a website for applications for theory post doc positions.
- Continue evaluation of how to strengthen DPF conferences; collect a "menu" of the preparations required to host this conference
- Send a letter to Homer Neal expressing the DPF's support for an evaluation of a Study Abroad proposal. Identify how DPF might provide some funding support for this project.
- Collect information from P5 and HEPAP that would help the DPF EC in deciding how we could contribute to US HEP science planning.

END DPF EC Minutes

Al Goshaw