AAPT Executive Board Meeting
Saturday, April 28, 2007
College Park, Maryland

Saturday Morning.
Members Present: Harvey Leff, President; Ken Heller, Past President; Lila Adair, President Elect; Alex Dickison, Vice President; Steve Iona, Secretary; Chuck Robertson, Treasurer; Al Gibson, Chair of Section Representatives; Mary Moggee, Vice Chair of Section Representatives; John Roeder, At-Large Member; Dwain Desbien, At-Large Member; Gordon Ramsey, At-Large Member; Jan Tobochnik, Editor, *American Journal of Physics* (AJP); Karl Mamola, Editor, *The Physics Teacher* (TPT); Toufic Hakim, Executive Officer
Guests: Warren Hein, Bernard Khoury, Jack Hehn, Rob Headrick, Roxanne Muller, Maria Elena Khoury, Caroll Martin

1. **Welcome and Call to Order.** Leff called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and guests.

2. **Changes to the Agenda.** No additions to the agenda were suggested. **Desbien moved the approval of the Agenda. Gibson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Approval of the Minutes.** Minor changes to the Minutes prepared by Mary Beth Monroe were suggested and noted. **Roeder moved that the January 2007 Minutes be approved, allowing for minor editorial changes. Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

4. **President's Remarks.** Leff highlighted several items in his written report including the following:

   - The American Chemical Society has dropped its Iranian members. APS will NOT do this with its existing 16 members from Iran. (While AAPT has members in Iran, there is no plan to drop their membership opportunities.)
   - APS plans to highlight its journal content by recognizing its most outstanding referees. Recognizing about 500 referees from past years will roll out the program.
   - APS is developing an outreach program for students in grades 6-7 called, Physics Quest.
   - 2009 is the Year of Science. This has been endorsed by the APS, AAPT, and other societies. Jack Hehn is one of the organizers. Heller urged AAPT to do something regarding teachers as part of the Celebration. He also wondered about national programs such as offering a stamp set. Hein indicated that there would be a database of sponsors, events, and contact people. One major activity that AAPT could be involved in, is to support a unified definition of science. Currently the EPA and the National Academy are the major players. Some wondered what AAPT might do in support of the Celebration at our national meetings.

5. **Advanced Lab Follow-up**. Leff indicated that there are over 730 members on the Advanced Lab list serve. Warren Hein selected Ramon O. Torres-Isea, University of Michigan, to serve as the website editor (http://www.compadre.org/advlabs/). Torrez has an advisory committee including many members from the Advanced Lab Taskforce. Heller wondered if the website would support member-to-member communication to further develop this group as a community. Heller thanked Leff for his support and encouragement of the Advanced Lab Group.

6. **Follow-up on Pervious Board Motions, Actions, and Requests.** Hakim presented progress on a collection of follow-up items.

   - One major item involves the US Physics Olympiad Team and its participation in the International Physics Olympiad in Iran. He indicated that approximately half of the students/parents were nervous about attending the competition in Iran. The decision was made to send the team. **Roeder moved that the Executive Board support the decision to send the US Physics Team to the International Physics Olympiad in Iran. Mamola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** There was further discussion about ways to support the team from Canada and the role that AAPT could play in that process. While no consensus was reached, the discussion repeatedly focused on the role AAPT may play in supporting the Canadian Team, to promote international good will, and to represent the multiple societies involved with the US Physics Team.

7. The Board moved into Executive Session (Executive I). (EI, EII)

Afternoon Session.

8. **Membership & Stewardship Overview**. Hakim described his desire to simplify the membership categories and membership/journal rates. He is working toward joint memberships with NSTA and APS; he is also working toward more electronic only membership options. (The major question with on-line only subscriptions is the lack of advertising; however, members can specifically request an online only subscription.). The suggested plan reduced the membership rates for pre-college members and minimally increased the rates for college/university members. Another major change was to link the membership rates for emeritus and retired members to a percentage of their pre-retirement category. International (outside of North America) members would receive electronic-only journal memberships. Heller encouraged the Board to not link Emeritus membership to years of service since in his view honoring service is not a membership designation; rather it is a recognition or honor. There were sufficient questions and revisions that the Board did not act on the rates at this time. (See #24).

9. **Membership and Subscriptions Rates.** Hakim presented several new options available to physics departments. These Bundled Participation Packages had three option levels. The target audience was four-year college and universities. Desbien encouraged Hakim to expand the program to include TYC and School Districts. **Hakim moved that the Executive Board approve the concept of departmental "affiliations" (Bundled Participation Packages) with associated rates and benefits. Roeder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

10. **Communications Overview**. Rob Headrick indicated that from AAPT's participation at various other society meetings, over 300 trial memberships have been requested. The AAPT.org web statistics indicate a reduction in effectiveness of AAPT News "click throughs." His written report indicated the status of various products and a variety of publications associated with the national meetings.

11. **Meetings Planning and Programs Overview.** Mary Elena Khoury described the following:
    - 100% increase in the participation in the Physics Team competition
    - The Physics Team has a planned session with congressional representatives and a closing ceremony involving prior Olympians.
    - Planning for an "elite" Department Chairs Conference in June.
    - Planning for a New Faculty Workshop (NFW) in Fall 2007 and one planned for Spring 2008. Hein mentioned that there has been a concerted effort to evaluate the effectiveness of the NFW via surveys of recent and distant past participants and their Department Chairs.
    - Referring to the Meetings Committee activity, she reported that the decision was to graciously decline the request from Dr. Genaro Zavala, Technololgio de Monterrey to host a meeting in Monterry, Mexico. Hakim will prepare this letter.
    - Greensboro has the largest abstract submission rate ever.
    - Hakim publicly thanked Mary Elena Khoury, Tiffany Hayes for their support and efforts to maintain the activities in the Meetings Department during Carol Heimpel's illness.
    - Thanks to these two were echoed by Lila Adair and Alex Dickison for their help in planning meetings.

    Dickison raised some questions about dealing with memorial sessions. The Board returned to discuss this later (see #23)

12. The Board passed a collection of motions based on discussion during their Executive Session.
    - **Robertson moved that, The AAPT Executive Board recognizes and appreciates the good work done by the Fundraising Advisory Committee (FRAC) including a soft launch of a fund raising campaign, an improved wording of the AAPT Awards descriptions, and their recommendations for accounting for gifts. It is with sincere gratitude that the Executive Board thanks FRAC for fulfilling their charge. Adair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
    - **Leff moved To approve the use of expanded names for the Lotze Scholarship, Bauder Fund, Fuller Fund, Venture Fund, and Dodge Fund to identify the use of the funds and to charge the Executive Officer with arranging approval from the donors as appropriate. Adair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
    - **Leff moved To charge the Executive Officer with bringing a recommendation to the Executive Board at the Summer Meeting 2007 on ways to use the Dodge Fund to advance the mission of AAPT locally and internationally. Robertson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
    - **Iona moved To affirm the appointment of John Mallinckrodt to serve as acting editor of AJP for one-year with Jan Tobochnik serving as an advisory consultant.**

Mamola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (This motion was to affirm the sense of the Board via email discussion regarding a one-year position available at Kalamazoo College for Jan Tobochnik.)

- **Leff moved the following resolution: On behalf of AAPT, we express our gratitude, as members of the Executive Board, to Dr. F. James Rutherford and applaud his thoughtful and generous support. The Fermi DVD initiative, which allows AAPT to serve as the exclusive distributor of original footage of Fermi and leading scientists of his era, will help support AAPT's efforts to recruit new members and advance its fundraising efforts on behalf of physics education. The Board welcomes Dr. Rutherford among its friends and supporters and looks forward to this collaboration. Roeder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously**
- **Hakim moved and Gibson seconded a motion - To charge the Executive Officer to finalize the language for the awards with the Awards Committee and make all the appropriate changes to AAPT documents in print and on AAPT.org. The motion was unanimously approved.**
- **Leff moved and Robertson seconded a motion- To charge the Awards Committee with developing a plan by July 2007 for expanding the awards program. The motion passed with Iona, Dickison, and Desbien voting no.**

13. **Public Policy Committee.** Hakim was charged to create a Public Policy Committee in October 2006. Currently the Committee includes: Noah Finkelstein (University of Colorado), Lee Hirsch (Thomas Wooten HS), Apriel Hodari [not an AAPT member Ruth Howes (Marquette University), Michael Lach (Chicago Public Schools), Alicia Torres (AIP, advisor), and Toufic Hakim. The Public Policy Advisory Committee will give counsel to the Executive Officer on:
    - Issues of public policy in which AAPT should be engaged, and how it should be engaged
    - Strategies to involve AAPT members effectively in public policy discussions and action.
    - Legislative public policy statements (letters of support and endorsement and opinions on pertinent state or federal legislation).
    - Ways to advocate for AAPT's statements on physics education and pertinent prospective legislation that should be proposed
    - Development of communication and programmatic vehicles to strengthen AAPT's national role in public policy.

    This will be done through:
    - Statements/letters to state or federal legislature. The Committee will either initiate or review such statements or letters (whether AAPT is the sole or joint signatory) before they are submitted. The Executive Officer will serve as the final editor and will give members of the presidential chain of the Board the chance to review the letters. Such letters will be posted on AAPT.org for members and site visitors. Members will be encouraged to use the AAPT Legislative Action Center (CongressWeb) to send their representatives similar letters. There will be a different procedure for time-sensitive or issues that require rapid response,
    - Public statements representing AAPT's academic positions on physics education

issues. Such statements require input from the members. This might be acquired from area committees or sections and which will be presented to the members at large for review and discussion on AAPT.org. The Board would approve such statements, but only after the Public Policy Advisory Committee reviews them.

Jack Hein commends AAPT for developing this policy. He has found it difficult to get AIP to develop and pass policy statements. In his role, he is often asked, "what would AAPT do?" regarding educational policies since many member societies often not have a mechanism to respond to education policy issues. He believes that other member societies would welcome a legislative agenda by AAPT.

Leff moved To approve the process for developing and adopting Public Policy Statements described in the Board Packet. Desbien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

14. **Nominating Committee.** Two members of the 2009 National Nominating Committee have been selected by the Section Representatives: Tom O'Kuma (TX) and Marina Milner-Bolotin (BC). The Board suggested a series of names trying to maintain diversity in geographic representation, gender, and high school/TYC/4YC-U. **Adair moved That the Board authorize Harvey Leff to contact the suggested members and constitute the Nominating Committee. Heller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

15. **AAAS Liaisons.** AAPT is an affiliate of AAAS and as such it can select up to three representatives for AAAS committees. Khoury's term on Section Q-Education and Robert Beck Clark's term on Section B-Physics are ending. The Board encouraged Leff to appoint Toufic Hakim to Section Q. Several suggestions were made for nominees for Section B. Jack Hein reminded the Board that the representatives on the committees help plan AAAS program and select members for nomination as Fellows. These roles will be important as AAPT meets with AAAS in February 2009.

16. **Budget Update.** Robertson reported that the first quarter figures indicate that there is a net of $285k. One major contributing factor is due to the long-term investment gain. He reminded the Board that this income is derived form a 4% drawdown on the long-term investment. 3% of this money is to be added to the general operating expenses and 1% is to be used for the Special Projects Fund.

17. **International Directions.** Hakim transmitted a request from David Sokoloff and Priscilla Laws regarding an opportunity to help sponsor professional development effort for physics educators in developing countries. The request is to help support the next three workshops on Active Learning in Optics and Photonics (ALOP) at $3,000 per workshop in 2007. This money will cover local educators' travel. The workshops will be in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, São Paulo Brazil, and one in Mexico. This proposal has been endorsed by the Chair of the AAPT Committee on International Education, and will allow AAPT access to participant lists. The funding would come from the earnings of the Dodge reserve fund. Roeder moved **To sponsor the 2007 ALOP workshops in Tanzania, Brazil, and Mexico at the cost of $3,000 each and charge the Executive Officer with developing an ongoing**

partnership with UNESCO and others to advance physics education in developing countries. Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

18. **Update from Bob Hilborn, Staff Physicist.** Hakim referred the Board to the update pages offered by Hilborn. While the Board was impressed by the variety of activities, Leff commented that he was disappointed to see only one Topical Conference in the planning stages. There was also comment on the need for follow-up on the Systemic Change Workshop.

19. **Grants Overview.** Hein highlighted the status of the NSF grants submitted in proposal or pre-proposal form. These included the PTRA – A New Teacher Study proposal and three proposals submitted by Bob Hilborn dealing with Building Undergraduate Programs for the 21st Century: Regional Workshops ($236,288), SPIN-UP II ($110,000), SPIN-UP HBCU ($137,000).

20. **Editor and Chief of Online Publications.** Iona presented the job description and charge to the Search Committee. Dickison asked about some of the procedures dealing with the expansion of the position from 25% to larger time commitments. The expectation is that when the Search Committee has identified the best candidate, the Executive Office would negotiate compensation and review procedures. **Roeder moved To accept the General Job Description and Specific Responsibilities of the Editor in Chief of Online Publications. Mamola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

21. **Report of the AJP Editor**. Since AJP has adopted the use of online submission and revisions software, the editorial office staff responsibilities are reduced. This should help John Mallinckrodt as he transitions into the one-year editorial duty. Jan Tobochnik intends to return to his position as AJP Editor in Fall 2008. Tobochnik reported that Jeff Dunham, Apparatus Editor is stepping down. Tobochnik was encouraged to use the Advanced Lab list serve as a source of nominees for to replace Jeff.

22. **Distinguished Fellows.** Leff introduced a program that would focus on and honor dozens of members who have made significant scholarly accomplishments in physics education. The AAPT Distinguished Fellows Program would publicly recognize deserving AAPT members, and it would illustrate to physics teachers, department chairs, deans, and others that the physics teaching community places importance on scholarship in physics education. The program would also strengthen AAPT's public image.

    Hakim indicated that from a public relations perspective, this is a very good approach. Ramsey indicated that since AAPT is a volunteer organization it is a nice way to acknowledge extraordinary service to physics education compared to the Distinguished Service Citation as service to AAPT. Dickison mentioned that involvement in sharing and workshop leadership as well as outreach and professional development leadership with other teachers should be included in the criteria for acknowledgement. Leff indicated that he thought that scholarly contribution could include developing a new piece of equipment for demonstrations or use in the laboratory. The recognition is for contributions to physics education not necessarily for good teaching or service to AAPT. Khoury cautioned that by

identifying "distinguished fellows" there might be an implication that there are "undistinguished fellows" thereby creating a two-tier approach to membership. Heller reiterated that selection should be so strong that it would be clear that the recipients were well deserving. There was some uncertainty regarding the best mechanism for nominating and selecting recipients. Leff felt a sense of support for the proposal and will bring a full version to the Board for the Summer Meeting.

The Board participated in a dinner honoring Ms. Carol Heimpel for her long-standing and meritorious service to AAPT in planning meetings and conferences.

Sunday, April 29, 2007
Session III
Guest: Roxanne Mueller, Warren Hein, and Bernie Khoury
Absent: Jan Tobochnik

23. **Memorial Sessions at Baltimore Meeting.** Dickison asked the Board for guidance about establishing a precedent for celebrating the lives of prominent AAPT members at National Meetings. Max Dresden has been honored with memorial lectures financed by special gifts for that purpose. Arnold Arons was honored with a special session. Bob Sears was honored with a presentation during a ceremonial session. Recently three prominent members of AAPT passed away: Ruben Alley, former President and Treasurer, John Gerhardt, former President, and Dick Crane former President Suggestions included dedicating a plenary session to each or dedicating a plenary session to all three. There was a suggestion to mention them in the Presidential Address so as to build on their legacy within the Association. Another recommendation involved seeking a policy proposal from the Senior Physicist Committee. Hakim indicated that eventually, there would be an Obituary Section of the webpage to honor deceased members. A consensus of the Board was conformable in developing posters honoring these members.

24. **Membership Rates.** Hakim provided a revised membership rate sheet. The sheet indicated that Emeritus and Retired rates would be collapsed at 50% of the non-retired rate. Iona mentioned that precedent would be that changes in qualifications of membership classifications (such as years of service or years of membership) passed through the Membership and Benefits Committee. **Leff moved the approval of the membership rate schedule. Adair seconded the motion. The motion passed, Heller voted no.**

The final proposed rate schedule is:

All members will receive:
Unlimited Online access to TPT, AJP, Physics Today, AAPT NEWS, and Interactions

Actively Employed Memberships
Category I: College, University, Lab or Industrial Setting:

- *Residing in the US, Canada, Mexico*
  $120 – also TPT journal in print
  $155 – also AJP journal in print
  $180 – also TPT and AJP journal in print

- *Those members residing in developing countries (as identified by the Fuller Fund) will be charged at 40% of the rate for North America.*
- *Other international members will be charged 80% of the rate for North America for Online journals only. If print journals are desired, then the rates for North America apply.*

Category II Pre-college Setting

- *Residing in the US, Canada, Mexico*
  $72 – also TPT journal in print
  $72 – also AJP journal in print
  $94 – also TPT and AJP journal in print

- *Those members residing in developing countries (as identified by the Fuller Fund) will be charged at 40% of the rate for North America.*
- *Other international members will be charged 80% of the rate for North America for Online journals only. If print journals are desired, then the rates for North America apply.*

Emeriti members
Receive a 50% rate reduction based on their latest employment standing.

Students (Undergraduates, Graduates) and Post-Docs
$25 – also TPT journal in print
$25 – also AJP journal in print
$35 – also TPT and AJP journal in print

25. **Section Representatives/Area Chairs Planning Retreat in May 2007**. **Gibson moved that Karen Johnson and PAG be invited to the Section Representatives/Area Chairs Planning Retreat in May 2007. Roeder seconded the motion.** Gibson indicated that by inviting these people more of the planning ideas would be represented, and more points of view could be voiced. Heller, while agreeing that the additions could be valuable, indicated that by approving this motion, there is an impression that the Board does not trust the Executive Officer and his judgment regarding the Retreat. Hakim saw "no downside" to expanding the invitation list, but did not think that it necessitated Executive Board action. He indicated that there would be observers including Warren Hein, Khoury, Hakim, Adair, and Dickison. He also indicated that this would be an opportunity to empower the new leaders of the Retreat Planning Group. Leff indicated that he would invite these additional observers. **The Board did not take action on the motion**.

26. **Green River College.** Robertson announced that Green River College would be dedicating the Marvin Nelson Science Center in June. Nelson was a recipient of the AAPT Excellence in Teaching Award. Khoury will draft a letter on behalf of AAPT honoring Nelson and commending the College.

27. **Committee for the Interests of Senior Physicists.** The Committee has requested status as a permanent Area Committee. They submitted a six-point mission statement and highlighted their activities over the last few years. Robertson raised concerns that the History and Philosophy Committee could have sponsored the sessions they sponsored. Khoury pointed

out that because the committee structure crosses levels and interests such a statement could hold for many sessions. Iona indicated that establishing another Area Committee might be premature given that the upcoming Area Chair/Section Rep Retreat might suggest a different model of governance. Hakim indicated that he was unclear what are the unique interests of the senior physicists and how does the committee represent them. Several members indicated the importance of the members on the committee and how they represent an important constituency within the organization. Anecdotally Hein and Leff indicated an increasing role of retired people working in schools. **Leff moved To establish the Committee for the Interests of Senior Physicists as a permanent Area Committee. Adair seconded the motion. The motion passed. Iona, Robertson, and Heller voted no.**

28. APS Award for Excellence in Physics Education. APS offers an award for groups who have demonstrated excellence in physics education. PSSC was the first recipient. AAPT would like to nominate the PTRA program for the award. Heller encouraged the nomination to explicitly help APS members understand the value of the program to Physics Education. **Gibson moved To charge Bernie Khoury to write a nomination letter for the PTRA Program for the APS Award for Excellence in Physics Education. Roeder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously**.

29. Officer's Handbook Update. Khoury indicated the Governance Review Committee (M.B. Monroe, Rod Grant, Tom Foster, B. Khoury, and Dick Peterson) had been charged to recommend changes in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Section Officers Handbook. They recognize that changes may need to re recommended based on the efforts of the Area Chair/Section Representatives' Retreat in May. There was a question though about whether the Officer Handbook was needed. Since its first development, electronic minutes and searchable archives have become the norm. Therefore, the recommendation is not to revise the Handbook and instead let the original documents serve as the guidelines. This approach places additional burden on the officers to refer to these documents as discussions are held and decisions are made.

30. The Board moved into Executive Session. (EIV, EV)

Submitted
Steve Iona, Secretary