

2006 SPD Business Meeting

Called to order @8:06

Secretary report: winners announced

Treasurer report:

Budgets balance and agree with AAS. Accounts audited by Dale Gary and Jim McTiernan.

Vice-Chair

~300 Registered (40 on-site)
Meeting going well.

Future Meetings

2007 Honolulu w/AAS

2008 Florida w/AGU

2009 stand-alone? Offers are open

AAS meeting organizers were very accommodating on meeting parameters in Hawaii. Only constraint is to meet in 3 plenary sessions w/AAS: 1 being Hale award.

Popular Writing Award

Scientist winners: Tony Hoffman & Brian Marsden, "The Booming Science of Sungrazing Comets," Sky and Telescope, August 2005

Journalist winners: Gerry Byrne, "Cycle of the Sun," Astronomy, June 2005

Report Community Service

Standing committees

SPD

John Leibacher, Tom Ayres & Doug Braun rotating off

E/PO Exploratory committee formed:

Drobnes, Alexander, DeForest, Dooling, Frank, Morrow & Zurbuchen.

Drafted proposal for standing committee. SPD committee approved 3year trial.

Website committee:

Cranmer, Gurman, Vourlidas & McKenzie reorganized website.

SPD Booth: Frank, Vourlidas, Balasubramaniam

Summer School: Leibacher & cohorts

Studentships: Emslie

Summer Schools (Ryan)

Summer school on High Energy Solar Physics. 48 participants, 12 international.

50/50 in gender. 2/3 grad students, 1/3 postdocs. 10 days, sometimes 8-8 or more.

Volunteer faculty

Highest priority turned out to be projects: Either write small grant proposal or spacecraft mission definition team. Students were very dedicated and learned a great deal. Projects supplemented with laboratories and lectures. Very few students had previous hardware experience, but were introduced to basics. Last day of school was peer-review of proposals. Spacecraft teams established scientific objectives, devised instrumentation with help of instrumentalists. The resulting proposals were reviewed by school staff. Team format was very effective. Got fellowships from SPD & NASA/LWS support. Courses could be for credit, so we could have support for tuition costs.

Call for 2007/2008 proposals will be out soon.

AAS Report (Marvel)

Bob Milkey is stepping down from AAS, to be replaced by Kevin Marvel who specializes in influencing public policy.

[see ppt from chair]

AAS is in good shape for transition.

Hiring ½ public policy support (6 months in spring)

Hired financial staff to manage accounting

Working to streamline systems.

E/PO Committee (Drobnes)

Report is on SPD educational outreach link at <http://spd.aas.org>

Plan to have pre-meeting receptions for students

Enhanced use of SPD booth at other meetings & exhibit areas at SPD meetings

Revamp website

Established committee: Drobnes, Frank, Zhang. Need two more for this year.

NASA HQ asks: Is heliospheric physics part of group? Answer: the group says heliospheric.

NSF Report (Bellaire)

90 days to next year! No Budget cuts, but prior awards will limit available funds, etc. This year will have fewer awards. Proposals are being processed for strategic capabilities. Will be out soon. Shine deadlines impending. Shine postdocs must use grants.gov system this year.

NASA R&A Recap

Review of budget chaos (see SN)

Advisory committees reconstituted. Heliophysics chair is Alan Title. Reported that R&A budget appeared to be okay, but needed further information. Posted on solarnews. [see chair's charts]

Discussion: Does SR&T really support training "disproportionally"? Yes at UNH. Maybe not at big labs (NRL, LMSAL). Yes at NASA itself too. @Montana is yes. Also question of stability is important too.

Lika: Is it really not NASA staffs responsibility to increase funding. What about other agencies support? Is this really a question of increase funding in general.

Comment: We should not argue about cut in R&A. How about to getting money back from Exploration...

NASA Heliophysics (Wagner)

Bills response: [see if we can get charts] Strange & disappointing year. Good news about launches, etc. and new award programs... Maybe some hope for getting some support from Exploration folks.

This year was a problem due to phasing of grant selections and change in NASA budget. More changes possible for '07.

Questions: What percent cut was HP handed by SMD and what was fixed by R&A? A: We did better since our hit was last year. No cuts in LWS, etc. All SMD was cut. The cut was really 15% off of what was projected not relative to previous year. The problem was they spent in '06 what they expected, not what they got.

Question: Elaborate on bigger issues facing space science? Direction of agency (heading to moon), earmarks, shuttle...

Anything we can do on lower level? Unclear

What about impact of NASA folks being supported by R&A rather than labs? A: That is why R&A has risen from \$25 to \$35M. This brings up question of how to fund government labs in general.

Reminder from Chair: Main impact on field is increased cost of missions due to increased requirements. We need to reduce it.

NASA LWS Report (Guhathakurta) [get ppt?]

Lots of things (good things) going on in Heliophysics. That name is having impact at HQ. Here is the good news: strong leader, strong mission support, etc. Focus on big picture instead of one year R&A problem. Need to create excitement in field with press releases, etc.

Roadmap has been great help at HQ.

see TR&T report on website and sentinels reports

Questions & Comments:

Big move to the moon. Is there any reason for this community to participate in far-side observatory, etc. A: There is a committee lead by Jim Spann exploring this; HP committee has also been tasked with this. But we won't get extra money for doing this.

Support expressed for Jim's position, despite the dedication of NASA officials. We need to make the point of importance of R&A budget. Response: that is fine, but make the right arguments: look at getting more money in general not just R&A.

Another element is MO&DA. Over past 10 years, if we inflated what we had in 1990s would be far bigger than what we have. So in that perspective R&A is doing well. For instance SDO teams are essentially cut off after 18 months, which didn't happen with SOHO.

One other point: If you believe that the HP committee will generate more money, you are mistaken. If you think we need more money, write congress.

Rebuttal: The committee should advise NASA, and they should discuss R&A. Rebuttal: That will happen. This is the place to give your opinion.

APS astrophysics meeting (Ryan)

Jim Ryan (Chair of Astrophysics of APS) was just notified that House spending bill is on floor. There is a possibility science might be cut. Need support for NSF, NASA and NIST. Particularly risks for redirecting NASA funds. Do something today.

Bylaws changes

Open discussion on proposed bylaws.

On item 3: Could be “if at all possible”. Note: this is already the rule at AAS. But it may be possible to change. There was general consensus that relaxing the requirement is a good idea.

ApJ Scientific Editor

Need editor to replace Mariska. Please volunteer!

NSO Report (Keil)[get ppt]

K.D. Leka is chairing user committee

NSF agreed that ATST is “ready” for construction. “Ready” now means preliminary design review. Will go to science board in March 2007 and join queue. Aiming for start in 2009/10. Air Force will buy mirror once NSF approves.

New instruments online to support SolarB. Will give coordinated SolarB observing proposals priority.

APS astrophysics meeting (Ryan) (Tabled, will be distributed via email)

Other issues

Meeting adjourned 10:30pm