

Group C Report
Thursday, May 24, 2007

All the groups summarized what they came up with during the first session.

Tom G's Proposal – every two weeks to send an e-mail to a new physics teacher specifically and actually to all of us who wish to be part of this list with a “teaching tip” or some cool ideas that can be implemented easily. Similar to TPT page by Patty Blanton “To the New Teacher”.

SRS 4 group: See document attached

SRS 5 group:

1. Premise 1 “prestigious” is not quite the exact word we want to use (too elitist?)
2. Charge: Investigate existence of other local physics teachers' groups and create a web page or list of these.
3. College HS Int. Committee (CHIC)

Brian Swartz
John Russell
Clair Goodiani

4. National – to have a National Speaker at every section meeting.

AC3 Small group discussion – see document.

Main idea: to have a liaison (a new staff member at the National) to be an advocate and a link between various Committees and the Sections – see the document. We think of 2-3 people for that but there was no specific discussion on the number.

To get started we need an initial group of people to initiate a project to create an infrastructure for the sections and committees. Then the liaisons will keep it going.

Warren says that all the Committees must have the staff liaison and we already have the Section Rep list. The list is not used enough now.

Discussion: We do not have enough physics content sessions at our meetings, so research faculty (who also teach physics) do not attend national meetings.

Each Committee can sponsor a certain number of sessions. The question is where a committee puts a call for contributed papers.

Every meeting has to have additional sessions that are physics content sessions at every hour of the day, so we can bring back many people.

May be each committee should argue more for its share of the session budget?
Should every committee justify itself in terms of the AAPT mission?

A year when all the committees should reapply to exist: so we have well-functioning committees.

The issue: spiraling down (inwards) versus outwards – with the sessions focused on hot physics topics: physics content sessions. What if we invite great speakers for more sessions and then people don't attend?

How does the AAPT exist between meetings? What does the National do between the sessions?

AAPT at the national level has liaisons (see above) to work with the local networks (sections) to facilitate their work.

Where should be an emphasis? National meetings versus the work done in between the meetings. In between the National Meetings: Local meetings, regional meetings, work at the Section Board, and also working full time teaching physics.

What do committees do when they meet? Most of the time currently is spent on planning the sessions for the national meeting. What if we have more discussion on the topics of what committee should invest effort into rather than the national meeting planning?
We have to go beyond the cracker barrel

Summary:

1. Better communication – to have liaisons at the National Office
2. Increase physics content sessions at the meetings.
3. Increase the membership by changing the fee structure and making the organization more appealing to various potential members.
4. Some of the decrease of the physics content at the meeting (see 2) might be due to the PER success – so we have to have a bigger tent at the National Meetings.

Let us dream!

Mission: *By fostering effective teaching at all levels. AAPT's commitment is to advance physics through education in service of our members and the public good.*

Vision: *Recognizing the value of physics learning in advancing the greater good, AAPT strives to become the leading voice and driving force in physics education, serving physics education as their leading resource and advocate.*

1. Abandon National Office
2. Continue publishing journals
3. Pay professionals to do all of the work including at the local level
4. AAPT has to start bottom up from strong local representation higher up
5. A National Office (N.O.) is a resource to the members
6. The strength of the AAPT stems from the contributions of many individual members as opposed to the strong and powerful N.O.
7. N.O. is a clearing house for the certification, speakers etc.
8. Think of different levels of interactions – locally versus globally
9. The definition of local should be expanded?
10. What do we want from the AAPT? – Meeting and Journals (share ideas), workshops for different teachers (new and old), networking, employment support, different funding for various project as a result of the NO members visiting politicians etc.
11. AAPT should be actively involved in public science literacy and outreach.
12. AAPT should provide mentoring and resources for physics teachers.
13. PER would not be thriving in the APS
14. How much overlap is there between the AAAPT and APS (and maybe CAP)?
15. ACS has an important function – accrediting chemistry curriculum – we do not do that? ACS – industrial chemistry training.
16. We would love to have the systematic joint AAPT/APS meetings.
17. Questionable proposal: Merge with APS on equal terms?
18. Problem: AAPT folks at the larger meetings can be easily overwhelmed by the APS.
19. Should we meet with the APS and discuss who does what?
- 20.
- 21.

A Tentative list of some of the things that AAPT should be doing:

1. Keeping our eye on the future: Existence of Physics Departments – Engineers teaching physics?
2. A big tent idea: we have K-12 teachers (NSTA), researchers (APS) to find value in joining AAPT.
3. AAPT has a real presence in the teacher prep programs in the colleges of education or any department of college involved with training future physics teachers.
4. AAPT should be a real presence in forming state/national standards in physics.
5. Continue publishing journals
6. AAPT should continue relying on the contributions of the individual members
7. N.O. is as a resource to the public and to the AAPT membership
8. N.O. is a clearing house for the certification, speakers etc.
9. N.O. should provide professional services, for example legal and financial.
10. What do we want from the AAPT? – Meeting and Journals (share ideas), workshops for different teachers (new and old), networking, employment support, different funding for various project as a result of the NO members visiting politicians etc.
11. AAPT should be actively involved in public science literacy and outreach.
12. AAPT should provide mentoring and resources for physics teachers.
13. We would love to have more joint AAPT/APS... meetings.
14. One of the tasks to be given to the EO to look outside of the AAPT borders. He should be the face of the AAPT seeking collaborations and funds outside of the organization.

