

**Society of Physics Students and Sigma Pi Sigma  
Spring 2007 Executive Committee Meeting**

DRAFT Executive Summary of the MINUTES

**American Center for Physics, College Park, MD  
8 June 2007**

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**Attendees:**

Voting Members:

Dr. Earl Blodgett	President, Society of Physics Students
Dr. Frederick Dylla	AIP Executive Director
Dr. Dwight Neuenschwander	At-Large Member Representative
Dr. Gary White	Director, SPS/Sigma Pi Sigma
Ms. Katherine Zaunbrecher	Associate Zone Councilor Representative

Speaking Member:

Dr. Thomas Olsen	SPS / Sigma Pi Sigma Historian
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AIP Staff:

Ms. Stephanie Campbell	Desktop Publishing, Education
Ms. Liz Caron	AIP Project Administrator, Education
Mr. Douglas Dalton	Administrative Assistant, Education
Dr. Jack Hehn	Director, Education
Ms. Sacha Purnell	SPS Secretary
Ms. Nathalie Quets-Rioux	Development Officer
Ms. Lydia Quijada	SPS Awards, Zone Meetings, and Sigma Pi Sigma Database Coordinator, Education
Mr. Tracy Schwab	Communications Coordinator, Education
Dr. James Stith	Vice President, Physics Resources

Guests:

Mr. Andrew Coughlin	2007 SPS Intern and Intern.com tutor for physics
Dr. Steve Feller	2008 Sigma Pi Sigma Congress Organizing Committee Chair

Absent:

Ms. Sonja Lopez	SPS Supervisor, Education
Dr. Ann Viano	Sigma Pi Sigma President

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Approval of the Minutes**

Dylla suggested that AIP prepare a package to equip departments facing the possibility of the termination of the physics major with statistical information to inform those making decisions.

**Action Item**

*Dylla moved the acceptance of the minutes. Neuenschwander seconded the motion.*

**Minutes approved unanimously.**

## **State of the Societies**

Dylla sought to have documentation of the choices of Member Society memberships chosen by undergraduate SPS members made available on the SPS WebSite.

### **Action Item**

## **2008 Congress**

Feller reviewed the progress of the planning committee for the 2008 Sigma Pi Sigma congress

## **2006 National Council Meeting Follow-up**

Highlights of reports on the progress of committees:

### *Committee A- ComPADRE, and The Nucleus*

The committee sought a letter in support of a bill to establish a STEM scholarship Database. The letter was sent out, and the bill had just become law.

### *Committee C – Ethics Recommendations from Congress – Moving Forward*

A statement on ethical behavior was adopted, approved for release, and distributed to physics departments and chairs.

### *Committee D – Undergraduate Research*

White distributed the report generated from an ethnographic study of the journals of the SPS Interns. Hehn stated that now that the ethnographic study was completed, the AIP Statistics Division would carry out development of a survey instrument to measure the effectiveness of undergraduate research programs.

### *Committee B – Underrepresented Groups*

*Neuenschwander moved,*

The Society of Physics Students (SPS) and Sigma Pi Sigma will begin a structured conversation on diversity issues, demonstrating the commitment of SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma to advance a culture of physics characterized by inclusion and respect for all persons. This conversation will be initiated in the Fall of 2007, through venues that may include, but are not limited to, workshops and/or a conference. These venues will be distinguished by the fact that *they listen to students*. By the Spring of 2008, the results of these initial discussion will be expanded and disseminated through SPS Zone Meetings, planning for the 2008 Sigma Pi Sigma Congress, Society publications, and other venues that continue the conversation and nurture the commitment.

*Zaubrecher seconded Neuenschwander's motion*

**Motion approved unanimously.**

## **2006 Council Meeting preparations**

*Dylla moved that the Executive Committee propose to the Council that it adopt "Future Faces of Physics" as the SPS theme for 2008.*

*Neueschwander seconded the motion.*

**Motion approved unanimously.**

*The executive committee thanked Feller for his excellent work on 2008 Congress planning as he departed.*

## **Partnerships**

*Neuensschwander moved that the Executive Committee encourage the Executive Director to negotiate an agreement to extend Sigma Pi Sigma's relationship with MentorNET and to establish SPS as a MentorNET Plus organization.*

*Zaubrecher seconded the motion.*

**Motion approved unanimously.**

White reported that the firm Tutor.com had contacted the National Office seeking SPS's assistance in the recruitment of new tutors in physics. SPS would be rewarded for its participation. White will proceed to follow-up on this opportunity.

White has been promoting Teach for America via e-mails to members and publishing stories of SPS students who have participated. He plans to continue to do so, and he will seek to formalize the relationship between SPS and Teach for America.

Hehn reported on COPUS, the Coalition On the Public Understanding of Science

*Dylla moved that the Executive Committee recommend to the Council that it decide to have each of the two organizations, SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma, become a part of the COPUS network. President Blodgett is directed to inform the Council of the COPUS prospectus and seek an electronic vote by the end of June 2007.*

*White seconded the motion.*

**Motion approved unanimously.**

## **Executive Session**

*The Committee moved into Executive Session at 16:25.*

*The Committee moved out of Executive Session at 16:42.*

## **Adjournment**

*Dylla moved adjournment.*

*Zaubrecher seconded the motion.*

**Motion approved unanimously.**

*Blodgett adjourned the meeting at 16:52.*