

Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Recruitment, Preparation, and Retention of High School Physics Teachers

April 4, 2008
ISAAPT Spring Meeting
University of Illinois

The committee held a pre-cracker-barrel session in the lobby of Loomis Laboratory beginning at 10 a.m. to discuss the PTE survey. In attendance were Carl Wenning (committee chair), David Sykes, Tom Foster, Ann Brandon, and Christopher Aderhold.

A discussion of the Committee's program survey was conducted, and it was agreed that the following questions should be included in the survey itself:

- Program type (physics major with science teaching methods course(s) in department, physics major with science teaching methods course(s) taught by another science department, physics major with science teaching methods course(s) taught by college of education, etc.)
- Whether or not there is an alternative certification program available.
- Degree types offered with certification (BS, MAT, BSEd, etc.)
- Designation type (e.g. how students get certified to teach physics such as physics designation or another designation within the sciences that allows them to teach physics at the introductory level)
- How soon in plan of study do students get contact with high school students
- Science teaching methods course(s) type, number, name, hours
- Number of students in education program and physics major, separately
- Any activities of particular note such as clinical experience hours, special projects, high points?

We will also seek permission and a hyperlink to include in the www.isaapt.org/teach/ web page. We will further seek contact information for educational leader. We will seek to find out if they want to be part of an educational consortium, and to attend our summer 2008 meeting. We will see if they want to be part of a pre-proposal activity for NIPTE – the National Institute for Physics Teacher Educators to take place, ostensibly, during the summer of 2009.

At approximately 11 a.m. the informal cracker barrel discussion began with no new participants. Over the course of a one-hour discussion, the following five decisions were made by the committee:

1. The committee will further develop and soon conduct a survey of Illinois-based physics teacher education programs in Illinois.
2. The committee will host a meeting of physics teacher educators from Illinois in early August, on a Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The survey and other forms of communication will be used to solicit attendance at this event. Carl will arrange the event, and will attempt to use Joliet Junior College as a “midway” meeting point. Part of the discussion will be the development of a

statewide physics teacher educator consortium. Participants will be asked to bring program descriptions, copies of their syllabi, and resource materials for sharing.

3. The committee will, with the ISAAPT president's approval, request \$500 from the national office of the AAPT to support the development of a physics teacher educator consortium in Illinois. Carl will outline the arguments for such funding, and David will prepare the final letter to be sent to Charlie Holbrow.
4. The committee will attempt to develop a national physics teacher educator consortium starting with a cracker barrel discussion at the Chicago national winter meeting in 2008. Carl will bring this idea up at the Teacher Preparation Committee meeting in Edmonton, and will also check with Patrick Callahan about having the High School Committee co-sponsor this cracker barrel.
5. The committee will work with Carl to further develop a proposal to fund a National Institute for Physics Teacher Educators (NIPTE).

In closing, Carl noted that an amendment will be proposed at the Section Council meeting on Saturday morning to make the Ad Hoc Committee for the Recruitment, Preparation, and Retention of High School Physics Teachers a standing committee of the ISAAPT.

After session notes: Carl spoke with National Council member Gordon Ramsey (with whom he had been in prior contact) about NIPTE. Gordon asked for an updated and expanded version of the proposal (attached with these minutes) which he will forward to the National Council. It will ostensibly be part of the discussion of the next National Council meeting.