

Meeting of the Council US Burning Plasma Organization

November 1, 2006

Held during the APS/DPP Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA)

Council Members in Attendance:

James Van Dam—Chair
Amanda Hubbard—Deputy Chair
Steve Allen
Rich Hawryluk
Bill Nevins
Martin Peng
Dave Petti
Craig Petty
John Sarff
George Tynan
Mike Zarnstorff

Ex Officio Members in Attendance

Ray Fonck—USBPO Director
Erol Oktay—USDOE

Other

Tony Taylor—USBPO Deputy Director

Unable to Attend:

Steve Cowley
Earl Marmar
Stan Milora—VLT Director
Gene Nardella—USDOE
Jerry Navratil

MINUTES

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 pm. The chair noted that Bill Nevins had replaced Tom Rognlien as a member of the Council, since Tom is serving as the deputy leader of one of the Topical Groups.

2. Overview of BPO Status

Ray Fonck and Tony Taylor presented an update about the activities of the Burning Plasma Organization.

ITER physics tasks: A “rapid response” team has been set up, consisting of Nermin Uckan (leader), Chuck Greenfield, and Jon Menard, which will talk with the ITER Central Team about details of the US physics tasks. The team has already had discussions with David Campbell, the deputy physics head for ITER, who was reportedly positive about the two highest-priority US tasks, viz., the RWM and ELM coil set, and discharge initiation scenarios. Both of the USBPO Topical Groups concerned with these tasks are holding meetings during the APS/DPP Annual Meeting. These two tasks will be used to establish a paradigm for how to proceed with other ITER physics tasks; the objective is to eventually have about half a dozen tasks.

Issue cards: ITER is setting up working groups to process the issue cards. Günther Janeschitz will lead the working groups. There are hints from ITER that an international design review might be held, but only after the issue cards have been processed. US participants in these working groups are being selected. Issue cards that the BPO received from US scientists have been forwarded to the US ITER Project Office.

Communication tools: Topical Group members should be reminded to copy all group members on email correspondence. Video conferencing works well, although more people should use it. Email alerts that new materials have been posted on the bulletin board would be helpful.

ITER liaison person: Fonck noted that the Directorate needs assistance in dealing with ITER requests. He would like to create an ad hoc post of assistant director for ITER liaison. The function of the person in this position would be to serve as a liaison with ITER on everyday issues (e.g., issue cards, physics task milestones), but not on policy issues. This person would be an assistant to the USIPO Chief Scientist.

3. Report of the Charter Subcommittee

George Tynan reported about the activities of the Council's Charter Subcommittee. He presented a draft of the Charter that had been developed by the Subcommittee. He noted several issues that need to be decided, including (1) the role of the Council and the extent of its involvement, (2) how Council members are to be chosen, and (3) the terms for rotation of Topical Group leaders, Council members, and the Directorate.

The Council discussed the Charter draft document in detail.

The Charter Subcommittee will take the Council's comments and suggestions under advisement and continue to refine the Charter document. A final draft could be ready for approval at the next Council meeting.

4. Report of the Director Search Subcommittee

The chair noted that Ray Fonck had sent an email to the Council members, stating his intention to step down as USBPO Director. He also announced this during his talk at the University Fusion Association meeting on Monday, October 30.

The chair announced that, with the approval of the Director, Deputy Director, and DOE program manager, a Director Search Subcommittee had been set up. Amanda Hubbard will chair this subcommittee, and the other members are Rich Hawryluk, Bill Nevins, John Sarff, and Tony Taylor.

Hubbard reported that the Subcommittee plans to discuss the job description and selection criteria. It will gather a list of potential candidates. It will send out an email next week to the entire USBPO membership announcing the search and describing the solicitation process. The announcement will also be circulated via USBPO eNews. She asked that Council members nominate qualified persons. The Subcommittee will then work on winnowing down the nominations and come up with a short list of three to four persons. The short list will be reviewed by the Council and then sent to OFES, which will make the final decision, with input from the US ITER Project Office.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.