

PTRA Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday January 10, 201 5:30-7:00 PM
Hyatt Regency New Orleans, LA

Committee Members:

Present: Pat Callahan (Chair), Robert Morse, Larry Cook (via phone), Earl Blodgett, Tom O’Kuma, Karen Jo Matsler (Director ex-officio member), Robert Hilborn (ex-officio), Rebecca Vieyra (ex-officio) - part of meeting

Absent: Ed Price, Kelly O’Shea

Friends of Committee in Attendance:

Janie Head (PTRA), Bruce Mason (Compadre), Duane Merrell (PTRA), Tiffany Hayes (AAPT), Linda Fox (PTRA), Dennis Fox (PTRA), Tommi Holsenbeck (PTRA), Jan Mader (PTRA), George Amann (PTRA), Trina Cannon (PTRA)

Meeting was called to order at 5:38 PM.

1. Members of the Committee were introduced and Friends of the Committee attending the meeting were briefly introduced.
 - a. Thanks were extended to committee members whose terms have ended; Steve Shropshire, Elaine Gwinn and Lillian McDermott.
2. Karen Jo Matsler presented her PTRA Director’s report (see WM16 PTRA Director’s Report)- same report was presented to AAPT Executive Board
3. Information from Executive Office
 - a. Financial report as of October 2015 showed a balance of \$209,202.07 in the PTRA Continuation Fund
 - i. Complete report in document PTRA Oct 15 Continuation Fund
 - b. Rebecca Vieyra reported on her work as AAPT K-12 Program manager as it pertains to PTRA.
 - i. Planning meeting at American Center for Physics with PTRA, American Modelling Teachers Association and PhysTec to discuss collaborative efforts towards a cohesive professional development plan.
 - ii. 100K in 10 has awarded small grant to facilitate meeting.
 - c. Bob Hilborn responded to question concerning large discrepancy in assessment fees paid to Continuation Fund from APEX program in 2015.
 - i. APEX management stated they could not afford assessments at 2013 and 2014 rate, AAPT Executive Office approved lower fee payment in 2015.
 - ii. Future assessment fees are to be discussed between Executive Office and APEX management.
4. Additional information concerning workshops
 - a. Alabama (APEX Grant)--Jim and Jane Nelson
 - i. See APEX Summary Report Fall 2015
 - b. West Georgia—Bob Powell, Ann Robinson, Sharon Kirby, Bill Reitz, David Todd, Nancy Easterly

- c. Idaho State—Steve Shropshire, Jan Mader, Duane Merrill, Lars Johnson, Mari Hayes
 - d. Oklahoma—Steven Maier, Christine Audo, Evelyn Restivo
 - e. Fee for Service workshops
 - i. Fall 2015 workshops
 - 1. Central PA Section—Pat Callahan, Dave McCachren
 - 2. New York (Northeast Regional AAPT meeting) – Steve Henning, George Amann
 - 3. Texas – Janie Head, Evelyn Restivo, Kenric Davies – no fee charged, awareness info for Perimeter and upcoming summer grant
 - 4. North Dakota – Larry Cook
 - ii. Spring/Summer 2016 Workshops
 - 1. Wisconsin River Falls--Lowell McCann, Earl Blodgett, Elaine Gwinn
 - 2. Texas – Michael Strange
 - 3. Central PA Section – Pat Callahan, Dave McCachren
 - 4. Texas Meggers Grant- Tom O’Kuma, Karen Matsler
 - 5. Texas – Kenric Davies
 - iii. Karen Jo reported that she is in the early stages of negotiations to set up additional workshop sites for summer 2016; potential sites could be in New York, Florida, Kansas, North Carolina, Kansas, Utah, Maryland, and/or Texas
5. PTRAs Involvement in grant funded projects
- a. NASA Heliophysics Grant – see document Heliophysics budget and exec summary. Bob Hilborn provided information on PTRAs involvement.
 - i. Project is an internal project within NASA
 - ii. Currently under negotiations to have PTRAs help to prepare and review materials.
 - iii. PTRAs could be used to deliver workshops on materials once developed.
 - b. Meggers Grant – see document Meggers Project Award. Tom O’Kuma and Karen Jo Matsler provided information on PTRAs involvement.
 - i. Workshops will be on Perimeter Institute materials.
 - ii. Agreement with PI and PTRAs will allow participants to receive materials at discounted rate, PTRAs Continuation fund receives income from Perimeter Institute.
 - iii. Small introductory workshops were held during the state conference to recruit participants.
6. The 2016 PTRAs Budget was reviewed, see documents; PTRAs Budget 2016, Request for PTRAs Resources funds and PTRAs Sales 2014-15.

7. Discussion was held on how to move forward with production and distribution of PTRA publications. These are discussion points that will be handled via email discussion between committee members and friends of the committee. When committee approval needed, vote will be electronic
 - a. Need for updating some materials was discussed
 - i. Who holds copyright?
 - ii. Include references to NGSS to appropriate resources.
 - iii. Need to decide which of the resource materials is worth revision efforts.
 - b. Should publication and distribution remain in the domain of the Physics Store or should other methods be explored?
 - i. Costs for publication is near (or possibly exceeds) price that Physics Store currently sells resources. Had discussion on seeking alternative publishers that could cut costs and help regenerate revenue for the continuation fund as a short term solution. Long term solutions need to also be discussed.
 - ii. Should resources be distributed electronically?
 - iii. Compadre is investigating the possibility of a premium Compadre site requiring paid subscription, this area could include PTRA resources once they have been updated.
 - iv. Workshop participants can be given only parts of resources during workshop and encouraged to purchase entire resource after seeing value of materials they received.
8. AAPT Executive Board Actions related to PTRA activities from October 2015.
 - a. The Finance Committee moves that (1) AAPT increase the price of select PTRA books by at least \$5/book and transfer \$5/book to the PTRA Continuation Fund and (2) that PTRA look for other ways to sell and distribute PTRA materials. This transfer of funds to the PTRA Continuation Fund will be sunset in 5 years and the \$5 per book contribution will not be retroactive. Approved unanimously.
 - i. **Oversight Committee needs to select which of the resource books should be considered for inclusion in this. Discussion will continue via email before committee decision.**
 - b. The Finance Committee moves that the PTRA budget be approved with the elimination of the \$16,000 from books sold in the past 4 years and the \$20,000 support from the AAPT operating budget. Furthermore, the Finance Committee proposes using up to \$100,000 from the PTRA Continuation Fund in the Short Term Reserves to cover budget shortfalls. Motion approved unanimously.
 - c. Add the K-12 Program Manager as ex-officio member of the PTRA Oversight Committee in order to improve communication and collaboration between the National Office and the PTRA program. Approved unanimously.

9. Karen Jo Matsler requested input on what the Oversight Committee would like to see happen with the 2016 Summer Leadership Institute in Sacramento.
 - a. If you were the PTRA Director, which direction would you plan to take the organization?
 - b. What is needed to support PTRA leaders and PTRA workshop sites in the future?
 - c. Need to stay up with current technologies.
 - d. PASCO has offered to host the PTRA summer institute in Sacramento and have offered lots of logistical assistance.

10. Discussion ensued concerning the need for younger PTRA leaders.
 - a. How much teaching experience is appropriate for a leader?
 - b. Section leaders could help suggest appropriate candidates.
 - c. Workshop sites would be needed in order to have new leaders serve as “interns”.

11. The issue of electronic access to PTRA materials for leaders was delayed pending changes in the PTRA web site.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Callahan
AAPT/PTRA Oversight Committee Chair

Note: Thanks are extended to Janie Head for taking meeting notes!

The following resolution was passed by the committee via email on January 25, 2016:

The following PTRA resources should have their costs increased by \$ 5 per unit, future sales of these should result in a deposit of \$5 per unit into the PTRA Continuation Fund:

Teaching Physics for the First Time
Teaching Physics for the First Time – Student Edition
Teaching About Energy
Teaching About Impulse and Momentum
Teaching About Magnets & Magnetism
Teaching About Newton’s Second Law
Teaching About Kinematics
Teaching About D.C. Electric Circuits
Teaching About Electrostatics