

Minutes of the March 13, 2018 meeting of the DPF Program Committee  
(not necessarily in the order discussed) Compiled by Prisca Cushman

We have a wiki to help organize <https://zzz.physics.umn.edu/lowrad/dpf>  
It has 4 main sub-pages:

1. Meetings (ours)    2. Sorting    3. Mission    4. April Meeting Improvement

1. Teleconference connections and minutes (including these) information, including these minutes, can be found at the meeting page

2. Sorting categories and creating sessions for the 2019 Denver meeting is our main task. The categories need to be complete by June and are used by abstract submitters. In order to improve the quality of the sessions, we will do the following

(a) Create the categories starting from the draft list on the Sorting Page – edit directly or email Prisca with suggestions. This includes ideas for including gravity waves and other science that DPF is beginning to be involved in.

(b) Come up with good focus sessions and mini-symposia topics. This provides cross fertilization with DNP, DAP and topical groups within the existing APS format.

(c) Find 4 sorters for next January, divide this committee into groups to help the sorters once the abstracts come in, to combine abstracts into sessions.

3. Mission will take care of itself. We should consider terms, nominations, etc  
This will be a topic at our in-person meeting at APS.

4. Improving the April Meeting is a huge task and not the main job of the Program Committee. However, where we can make positive changes we will. We had a wide-ranging discussion.

The APS Task Force on the April Meeting report (2013) recommended moving to Washington DC every other year and changing the meeting time to October. It suggested rebranding to “Quarks to Cosmos” and suggested changes in the format of the meeting. None of the recommendations except rebranding were taken. More information on the consequences of the report and data used to make the report will be collected (Bob Bernstein has already started the process). Once we have a story, we will post on the wiki. Meanwhile, we discussed some of the recommendations.

Venue: No one liked the Washington DC recommendation. DC is expensive. Much of politics and speaking to your senator is local anyway.

Timing: October has the advantage of not colliding with other HEP meetings, but may be awkward with the school year. There was not a strong October contingent. Combining with the March Meeting found support because of the timing (50% it falls on spring break) and by piggybacking on the March infrastructure and additional cross-fertilization. Outreach would be easier. Combining both meetings in DC might make a bigger impact to lawmakers.

The APS meeting has an identity crisis. We all like our DPF meeting, but there is no point in duplicating it. We can all think of how to make the April meeting complementary to DPF (cross-fertilization with DNP-DAP-topical groups, undergrad involvement, outreach, networking for young researchers, and other ideas listed on the wiki). How do you do that and get people to feel it is worth their time and pay for their students go? The AAS runs a very similar meeting which competes with more focused meetings, but with a huge success – find out how they do it. Some suggestions: Better combined sessions (we're working on it!), keep cost lower, advertise, use local institutions and universities, target young researchers to give them the tools they need to advance (and thus foster a brand loyalty for the next generation). This is likely to be a gradual process and there are a few things we can do to make Denver better. Concentrate on those.

#### Action Items:

Chris and Tao mentioned that this year, APS did not coordinate with Ohio State. Bob will contact Denver entities about the 2019 meeting and Prisca will help coordinate with APS over outreach. Others welcome to jump in and lend a hand. If we do the outreach starting this spring, we have a chance to make a big splash in Denver.

Prisca will contact APS about the degree to which we can change the rules wrt abstract selection and (Chris' suggestion) more panel discussions, as well as the possibilities of having a joint March/April meeting in March.

Volunteer for the following jobs within the committee:

Outreach helpers for Denver, Need 4 sorters for January 2019, Someone interested in promoting undergrad involvement, Someone interested in developing Career and Networking avenues. The last 2 can just be for Denver, not forever!

Continue to add suggestions to the wiki on this page. Prisca will adjust and edit as needed for clarity. By placing suggestions on the wiki (or by email) we can come up with a list of changes for Denver.