

Thanks to all who were able to join the DPF Program Committee meeting. The enclosed slides were presented. There are several parts to our work as the new Program Committee.

1. One is immediate help on organizing the contributed talks (abstracts coming in now) to create a number of focus sessions and symposia. To that end, I am assigning each member of the committee to a set of sorting categories. I will be sending your assignments in a different email and you are welcome to modify your assignment by emailing me back and complaining. I am investigating whether we can get an official APS wiki page for our work and permissions to view the abstract submission while it is happening. The idea is put together collections of talks into focus groups and identify longer talks (2 slots together) that can be part of these, before the official sorter's meeting on January 19. If you have any questions about this process and how proactive to be, please call me at 612-483-1159 or email.

\*\*\* Not mentioned at the meeting: Tao and I are seeking 2-3 people (preferably from this committee) to go to the January 19 sorter's meeting at APS in our stead. All expenses will be paid by DPF. If interested, please contact me. \*\*\*\*\*

2. Participate in the April meeting. We need volunteers for chairing sessions and we are planning a face-to-face meeting (with remote participation as well, so attendance in April is not mandatory). How do we make this meeting the "go-to destination" for our community? The 2019 meeting in Boston will already be in planning this Spring and we will be contributing to that as well.

3. Over the next year, we need to come up with a mission statement for this program committee, as well as by-laws (nomination procedure, terms, etc). I will initiate that process by email and we will discuss our progress at the April meeting of the program committee.

Some ideas raised during the discussion on improving the April meeting were:

(a) Providing a forum for undergraduate talks. The forum could be led by someone in one of the teaching universities. SPS does provide some travel funds; DPF could explore this.

(b) Mentoring and career building advice for graduate students and young researchers is very important and we should strengthen this with forums and panels.

(c) April meeting is unique in that we have broad representation across many divisions and we should capitalize on this by providing many opportunities for cross fertilization, including better coordination on joint sessions.

(d) Already the April meeting provides a chance to make connections to science policy, climate, politics, outreach etc. but we can do a better job of advertising this as well as direct connections with DPF. There should be a task forces that examines important social issues such as mental health issues, diversity, bullying,

(e) The massively parallel agenda discourages some of what we are trying to do. How do we work with this (or change it).

(f) Getting high profile talks with new results are important ways to increase attendance. This is partly the job of the APS April Meeting committee and the plenary talks they find. But our work in proactively seeking contributed talks with new results is important.