

# Meeting of the Council US Burning Plasma Organization

April 7, 2006

Held by telephone conference call (10:30–11:35 am CST)

## **Council Members in Attendance:**

James Van Dam—Chair  
Amanda Hubbard—Deputy Chair  
Steve Allen  
Rich Hawryluk  
Earl Marmar  
Jerry Navratil  
Martin Peng  
Dave Petti  
Craig Petty  
Tom Rognlien  
Stan Milora

## **Ex Officio Members in Attendance**

Ray Fonck—USBPO Director  
Tony Taylor—USBPO Deputy Director  
Erol Oktay

## **Unable to Attend:**

Steve Cowley  
John Sarff  
George Tynan  
Mike Zarnstorff  
Gene Nardella (ex officio)

## **NOTES**

### **1. Information about plans/process for setting up USBPO Topical Groups**

Ray Fonck and Tony Taylor reported about the process for setting up ten Topical Groups. Nominations for Topical Group leaders were solicited from the US fusion community three weeks ago. Ray and Tony plan to present candidate names for the leaders and deputy leaders to the Council early next week.

There was discussion on the following points:

- The number of leaders for each group.
- Whether members of the Council could also serve as Topical Group leaders. (Two Council members were against this idea, apart from exceptional cases.)
- The tenure for the Topical Group leaders.
- Having the deputy leader of a group serve an “apprenticeship” and subsequently take over as the leader.

- How to involve junior scientists.

## **2. Discussion of the process for soliciting US physics tasks for ITER for coming year**

Ray described how the 2005-06 US physics tasks for ITER had been solicited in an ad hoc manner. Now US tasks for the 2006-07 year are being solicited. The USBPO should be involved in this process. Because Topical Groups are not yet set up and because there is some urgency (due to Dr. Shimada planning to attend an ITPA meeting at PPPL on April 25), Ray proposes to take eight scientists having scientific breadth with him to meet with Shimada. They would help evaluate progress on last year's tasks and negotiate next year's tasks. For the latter, they would refer to summaries from the December burning plasma workshop.

There was discussion on the following points:

- Whether and how to circulate a notice to the US community concerning ITER physics tasks.
- USBPO to send the list of 2005-06 US tasks to Council members.
- Whether the ITER tasks would receive any special funding. (The Council would like to discuss this further at a future meeting.)

Ray also described some other active tasks, to which the USBPO has already responded:

- CODAC for ITER: In response to Dr. Jo Lister's request for a US participant, the USBPO asked Martin Greenwald to work with the ITER Central Team.
- BPO communications tools: An ad hoc panel of about seven persons has been set up to explore these technologies.
- Diagnostics: At Dave Johnson's request, the USBPO set up a Diagnostics team consisting of Rejean Boivin, Steve Allen, and two others, plus Dave himself.

## **3. Council responsibilities**

Ray reported that Anne Davies had asked the USBPO to help DOE/OFES respond to the Energy Policy Act. He presented a plan for doing so to FESAC at its recent meeting. The USBPO set up an ad hoc panel of three teams to work on developing a white paper. Ray himself is leading this panel. Oktay noted that Ray Orbach now wants a response by early June. Ray will push up the schedule and have both FESAC and the Council review the white paper in parallel before it is submitted to OFES.

Ray noted that he wants the Council to write a charter for the USBPO, which will clearly define terms of office, responsibilities, and operating procedures for the Council, for the Topical Groups (and Task Groups), and for the USBPO management. This will be discussed further at a future Council meeting.

## **4. Next Council meeting**

If possible, the next Council meeting will be scheduled for sometime next week. A major item on the agenda for that meeting will be input from the Council to USBPO management concerning the candidates for Topical Group leaders.