

Minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Physics Education Group (PEG) of the Australian Institute of Physics (AIP)

Held on Wednesday 2nd February 2005 at 12:40pm, in Lecture Theatre 3, Manning Clark Centre, Australian National University, during the 16th Biennial Congress of the AIP.

Present

Ian Sefton, Pal Fekete, Don Neely, Peter Logan, Anna Binnie, Mario Zadnik, Suzanne Hogg, Judith Pollard, Geoff Swan, Roger Lewis, Alberto Mendez, Derek Muller, Manjula Sharma, Elizabeth Chelkowska, Michelle Livett, Susan Feteris, Kate Wilson, Margaret Wegener, Damian Pope, Marian Radny, Andrew Roberts, David Mills, David Low, Alex Merchant

1. Minutes of previous meeting (9th July 2002)

The minutes of the 2002 meeting were accepted (Zadnik/Logan).

2. Arrangement of agenda

David Mills outlined the agenda.

3. Business arising from previous meeting

- (a) The inaugural AIP Education Medal will be awarded to Mario Zadnik at the AIP medal ceremony on Friday 4th February 2005. There was discussion surrounding the original intention of the prize being for university physics, and the benefit of it being made more widely available. *[Note of clarification subsequent to the meeting: the AIP Education Medal is open for any level of physics education - details are available on the AIP website].* The design of the medal was still to be finalized. The medal was not introduced to honour an individual (unlike the Walsh, McIntosh, Boas, Massey and Bragg Medals), and hence does not carry a name;
- (b) The PEG Email list remained distribution-only at present, and members present felt that there would be advantages in having a discussion forum as discussed at the 2002 meeting. The incoming committee was asked to look at the options for communication with and between members of PEG;
- (c) A group drawn mainly from PEG was successful in obtaining funding from the Australian Universities Teaching Committee (AUTC; recently replaced by the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education). Stage 1 of the resulting report will be presented on Thursday 3rd February 2005 at a dedicated session in the Congress program.

4. *Convenor's report (David Mills)*

Copies of the Convenor's report had been previously circulated by E-Mail, and copies were available for perusal. Highlights therein were the AIP Education Medal [*incorrectly referred to therein as being for "university physics"*], the 2005 AIP Congress, and the AUTC Project on Learning Outcomes and Curriculum Development in Physics.

Discussion of the Convenor's report centered on a number of issues:

- (a) The nature and role of PEG committee office bearers. A need was seen to add a Communications Officer (the preferred name, over "Assistant Editor") to the list of office bearers, both for general outreach activities, as well as to specifically deal with the Editor of The Physicist. The role of "Secretary/Treasurer" has traditionally been that of the next Congress PEG/Education representative; however, the meeting saw benefits in keeping these roles distinct (while they may be the same person, there is no such requirement). It was emphasized that the State/Territory PEG representatives were not (necessarily) the same people as the Education Convenors of AIP State/Territory branches; the meeting saw the need for the PEG representatives to initiate (if necessary) and maintain communication with their local AIP committee Education representative. This extended to the PEG committee continuing and strengthening links with the AIP National Committee Education convenor;
- (b) There was a strong feeling from the meeting that PEG's dialogue with secondary teachers needed to be maintained and strengthened. To this end, the meeting **RESOLVED** (Fekete/Binne) that:

"The Physics Education Group of the AIP will seek to be proactive in promoting dialogue and collaboration with secondary teachers, teaching and teacher organizations, and form a working group to that end."

- (c) The next Congress will be held in Brisbane over 4th-8th December 2006. The incoming PEG committee would need to resolve the matter of a PEG representative to the Program Committee of that Congress. Given the popularity of PEG sessions at the 2005 Congress (with attendances of 90+), the meeting noted that room sizes allocated to PEG would need to take this into account.

[Note subsequent to the meeting: Margaret Wegener has taken on the role as PEG representative on the "RiverPhys" (AIP Congress 2006, Brisbane) Program Committee, with Anton Rayner assisting]

5. *Treasurer's report (David Low)*

As in the past, PEG had no funds at the start of the year, did not attract any funds during the year, and finished the year with a zero balance in our non-existent account ☺

6. *Election of PEG committee members*

Peter Logan took the floor as returning officer. As there were no positions for which the number of nominations exceeded the number of positions, the following people were declared elected to the 2005 PEG Committee:

Convenor: Geoff Swan

Deputy Convenors: Pal Fekete, Kate Wilson

Secretary/Treasurer: Anton Rayner

UniServe Science Representative: Ian Johnston

Immediate Past Convenor: David Mills (*ex-officio*)

Communications Officer: Kate Wilson

State/Territory Representatives: David Low (ACT), Manjula Sharma (NSW), [vacant – NT], Patrick Keleher (QLD), Judith Pollard (SA), Elizabeth Chelkowska (TAS), Michelle Livett (VIC), Mario Zadnik (WA).

[Update: subsequent to the meeting, Anton Rayner stepped down as Secretary/Treasurer, and was replaced by Damian Pope.]

7. *Other business*

- (a) David Mills noted that the AIP would like us to hold meetings annually, but that there was no objection to carrying them out by Email;
- (b) There has been talk within the AIP Executive of reviving the Australian Journal of Physics under an arrangement with the Taylor & Francis Group. Noting the absence of a local forum for the publication of Australian physics education research, the meeting RESOLVED (Wilson/Hogg) that:

“The Physics Education Group recommend to the AIP Executive that Physics Education be a regular and substantial part of the re-issued Australian Journal of Physics.”

Further discussion endorsed the idea that PEG should aim to have an Editor responsible for Education appointed to the board of a re-issued Australian Journal of Physics.

- (c) Mention was made of the International Conference on Physics Education, to be held in August 2005 in Delhi, India;

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1:50pm.