

SPA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 23, 2007, Acapulco

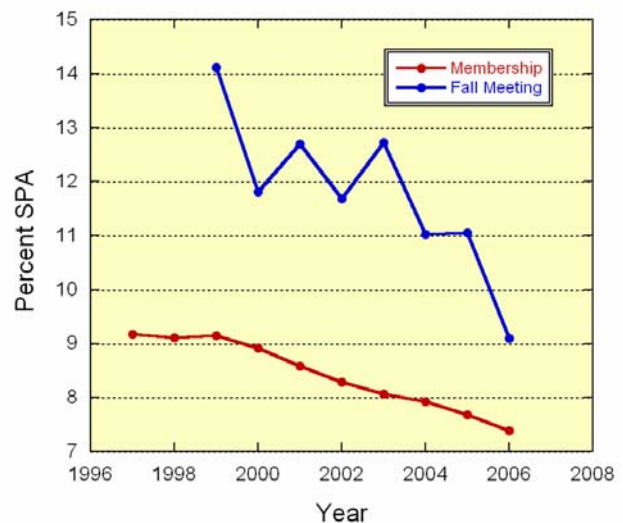
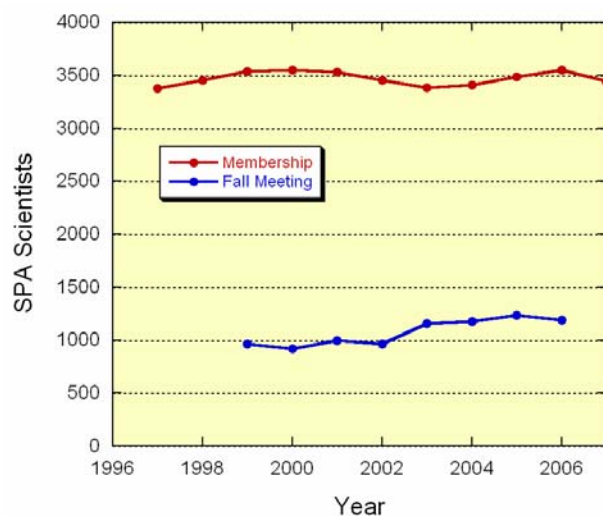
A light luncheon was served at 12:15, and the meeting opened at 12:30.

Art Richmond (Aeronomy Secretary) reported on the current Spring meeting. 429 SPA abstracts were submitted. There were 419 last year. A bit more than 2000 total registrants are at the Acapulco meeting. US attendance is down, but foreign (mostly from the Americas) is up.

The committee discussed the issue of special sessions with programmatic themes. This discussion began at the Fall 2006 executive committee meeting. Opinions of committee members vary - NASA is a major sponsor and so some level of programmatic elements is appropriate. The committee mostly feels that it is important to have a scientific focus to sessions. It is agreed that the SPA section should have a written policy about his. A draft of such a policy will be circulated by Art Richmond. The Exec Committee will hone this via e-mail. Jim Burch will also bring the issue up at the AGU-wide meetings committee.

The committee discussed various international meetings which compete with AGU meetings: EGU, AOGS, etc. The plan for the Spring meeting is that it will evolve to a meeting of the Americas. The spring meeting will be in Florida next year, then in Brazil, and will continue to move back and forth between the US and the other Americas.

The issue of declining percentage of membership of the overall AGU by SPA was discussed. It is noted that it is not a decline in membership of SPA, but rather growth in the relative percentage of AGU members who are in other geophysical disciplines. This resulted in a decrease in the relative percentage of AGU represented by the SPA section. It is suggested that the field has reached a steady state in terms of funding and students entering the field which is balanced by those leaving the field.



There is also a sense among committee members that the transition to electronic publishing at AGU caused the loss of many folks from the solar community. Many solar papers are going to Astrophysical J. instead of JGR. Nonetheless, it is pointed out that one advantage of JGR is the two referee system which results in a superior final product. Amitava Bhattacharjee, Pete Riley, and

Nancy Crooker will put together a "sales pitch" for the electronic newsletter for SPA and Solar to attract more solar papers for JGR.

EOS concerns were discussed. The main problem was that papers submitted to EOS would be delayed for long periods of time before being published. There is now a new position of "News Manager" who will help facilitate more rapid movement to publication. There will no longer be discipline editors. Instead they will be discipline "advisors". Many of the problems discussed at the Fall 2006 executive committee meeting have been improved on. A discussion ensued about how to get more space science feature articles and how to write articles which are more generally accessible to the entire AGU community. Physics Today was brought up as an example that seems to strike a good balance. Another possibility is to post example articles in the various disciplines so that authors would have a good idea of what style they should be writing to.

Space Weather now has a "publisher," Nina Tristani. There is an effort to improve the Space Weather quarterly. A survey is planned to poll quarterly subscribers so that it can be better aimed at those who want it. Changes that arise from the survey will be implemented in the next year.

Margaret Chen and Nikolai Ostgaard are the new editors of GRL for space physics. They took over as of March, 2007. New submissions are rising and given the breadth of topics, it was decided that two editors would be a better fit. The goal for publication speed is have a ten week cycle from submission to publication.

EPO Report. At the Spring meeting in Acapulco there was a teachers workshop attended by 74 teachers. There was also a family science activity going on. The year's focus is on IHY. The suggestion is made that the EPO committee should report periodically in both the SPA news and EOS to inform the broader community about their successful activities.

Scarf Awards: The process is now taking up to 2.5 years for recipients to receive the award. This is due to the difficulty of receiving the nominations in time and getting the reviews done. The committee decided that the award decision should be made on a more rapid timescale. Some possible improvements in the timetable were discussed.

Outstanding student paper awards and participation of judges was discussed. People are agreeing to review and then not doing it. Both Solar and Aeronomy seem to be doing a less than complete job of reviewing. It is suggested that examples be given to reviewers.

The meeting adjourned at 14:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Craig Kletzing  
Magnetospheric Secretary