

Cracker Barrel Discussion Minutes

Ad Hoc Committee for the Recruitment, Preparation,
and Retention of High School Physics Teachers
Lincoln Land Community College
Friday, October 12, 2007

The meeting was called to order in the school library at approximately 10:30 a.m. In attendance were the following:

Erin Stefanik, Illinois State University (student)
John Metzler, Illinois State University (student)
Ann Brandon, Joliet West High School (retired)
Diana Roth, Lanphier High School
Kenneth Mellendorf, Illinois Central College
David Sykes, Lincoln Land Community College
Zack Metzger, Riverside Brookfield High School
Nathan Frank, Illinois Wesley University
Andrew Morrison, Illinois Wesleyan University
Tom Foster, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

After a brief review of the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Recruitment, Preparation, and Retention of High School Physics Teachers, Carl Wenning displayed for the first time the recruitment booklet for in-service teachers and the brochures for distribution to prospective science teacher candidates. He then introduced a new web page Illinois-Science-Teaching.Info.

Carl noted that the Council of the Illinois Chemistry Teachers Association thought it reasonable to make the recruitment brochure and booklet available for use by other states for a \$300 total payment to be distributed pre-rata to the four organizations that paid for its layout. It was agreed that any income would be distributed on the following basis: 40% IACT, 20% ISAAPT, 20% CSAAPT, and 20% ISTA. It was also agreed that the ISAAPT, as sole originator of the documents, would retain copyright and printing control.

Carl afterward noted the need to update the isaapt.edu/teach/ web page. Dave Sykes noted that we might update the page by providing more guidance to web page visitors about the nature of the programs that are hyperlinked on this page. He also suggested that providing hyperlinks might be contingent upon various programs participating in an annual ISAAPT-sponsored survey dealing with the status of high school physics teacher candidate preparation.

Prior to discussion of this topic, however, Carl asked for general input relative to improving the preparation of high school physics teachers. The following “brainstorming” points were made:

- Andrew Morrison noted a need for better coordination between colleges of education and physics teacher education programs. He suggested that specific content might be suggested to colleges of education to provide of better background for science teacher education majors taking science-teaching methods courses. Andrew indicated that it would be a good thing if ISAAPT’s stronger PTE programs should provide guidance to those desirous of receiving assistance to improve their own programs.
- Ann Brandon recommended a very early start for clinical experiences in physics teacher education programs, from as early as the freshman year and continuing every week over the four-year

preparation period. Ann later recommended that physics teacher education programs should include consideration for helping students make use of “low tech” approaches to science teaching.

Attention was then turned to making recommendations for improving the /teach/ web page and, more specifically, how the ISAAPT could help prospective physics teacher education majors make the right choice about which PTE program to choose without making explicit recommendations. The following points were made and agreed to:

- Ann and Dave noted that St. Francis College in Joliet, Lewis University in Joliet, and possibly the University of Illinois at Springfield appear to have science teacher education programs but are not on the /teach/ listing.
- Dave suggested that programs be categorized on the /teach/ web page into appropriate categories such as “physics teaching major with science teaching methods course(s) taught by physics department” or “physics teaching major with science teaching methods course(s) taught by college of education” or “science teaching major only with certification in physics.”
- Carl suggested that hyperlinks to programs should be included on the /teach/ web page only after they provide information about their programs by participating in a survey.
- Tom recommended that programs will be linked to the /teach/ page if and only if they fully participate in an annual survey of physics teacher education.
- Tom noted that programs should be asked to provide a specific hyperlink for the /teach/ web page so as to make it easier for prospective majors to find information about the program in question.
- Tom also noted that universities have a right to protect their trademark and hyperlinks should not be included without their permission.
- It was agreed that Dave and Carl would work together to develop a suitable survey for program directors in relation to the above suggestions.

Carl then noted that the CSAAPT, through President Jan Dudzik, has indicated interest in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and has agreed in concept to a joint committee between ISAAPT and CSAAPT. The idea was viewed favorably. It was agreed, following the suggestion of Dave, that the Ad Hoc Committee be established as a Standing Committee of ISAAPT. This will be pursued at the Executive Council meeting on Saturday.

Carl noted that with Kimberly Shaw of SIUE now in Georgia, there might be a new opening on the Ad Hoc Committee. He solicited volunteers for the committee that he will share with the Executive Council on Saturday morning. Eight attendees of the meeting volunteered. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Carl Wenning, Secretary Pro Tem

P.S. On Saturday morning the Executive Council fully agreed with the Ad Hoc Committee’s recommendations. It was further agreed by the Council that the Committee should include CSAAPT members (2) if they formally choose to have their members join our own. The current ISAAPT representation would remain at two – Carl and Dave. It was further agreed that the Ad Hoc Committee should become a standing committee, but that an amendment in the Bylaws would be necessary. That topic will be included in the Bylaw amendments to be proposed at the Annual Meeting in autumn 2008 at Illinois State University.