

**Society of Physics Students**  
**General Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**August 25, 2008**

Call to order: 5:05 PM

Attendance: 13

Officers present: Laura Seward (President), Autumn Hallmark (Vice-President), and Michael Mercer (Treasurer).

In the absence of a Secretary, the minutes taken by Laura.

- Introductions
  - Each person present gave a short introduction including his/her name, major, year, and where he/she is from.
- Vice-President report
  - None
- Treasurer report
  - Pay membership dues - \$5 per semester.
- Social Committee Chair report
  - Future opportunities to volunteer include the MSFC Great Moonbuggy Race in April and the Science Olympiad in the spring.
- Upcoming events
  - Von Braun Astronomical Society (VBAS) Astronomy Day: date TBA, typically October
  - Tour of the U.S. Army Aviation & Missile Research, Development & Engineering Center (AMRDEC): possibly the end of September
  - Six Flags Over Georgia in Atlanta - April
  - Social events such as bowling, movie day, ice skating, and thermite burning were suggested.
  - A vote of those present was held to choose which UAH laboratories SPS should visit. Tied for first place were the Aerophysics Research Center and the Holography Lab. Other possibilities include the Center for Applied Optics, the Center for Modeling, Simulation, and Analysis, the Propulsion Research Center, and the Rotocraft Systems Engineering and Simulation Center.
- Positions available
  - Michael Mercer stepped down as Secretary. Elections for the position of Secretary will be held at the next general meeting on September 8.
  - The Demonstration Committee Chair is vacant.
  - Michael Mercer volunteered to take over the duties of Webmaster for the UAH SPS website.
  - Sigma Pi Sigma Chair is vacant. Only current Sigma Pi Sigma members are eligible. Laura will contact Sigma Pi Sigma.
- Committees
  - Members interested in joining the Demonstration Committee should contact Laura. Chase, Akito, JC, and Thomas volunteered to join.
  - Members interested in joining the Social Committee should contact the Social Committee Chair Kira Patty.
  - Members interested in joining the Activities Committee should contact the Activities Committee Chair Autumn.
- Results from the Info Social on Friday, Aug. 22
  - What should SPS do this year?

- ✓ Go to physics day at Six Flags.
- ✓ Various demonstrations. If we could do some lab stuff that would be awesome.
- ✓ Study
- ✓ Do joint activities with Space Hardware Club.
- ✓ Introduce new students to the software and tools that a freshman physics student would need.
- ✓ Do some interesting experiment like we did last year (holography).
- ✓ Build something cool.
- ✓ Car – G force demonstration
- ✓ Do physics.
- ✓ Build a working rocket (fuel, nozzle and all).
- ✓ Get the pendulum demo.
- ✓ Build a working Stonehenge observatory.
- ✓ Involve students outside of physics and engineering.
- ✓ Shoot lasers at pumpkins.
- ✓ Help new physics students meet upperclassmen physics students.
- ✓ Have the science picnic every semester.
- ✓ Imitate MythBusters.
- ✓ Potato launcher
- ✓ Help with recruiting physics students.
- What do you want to gain from SPS?
  - ✓ Networking with others in related fields.
  - ✓ Exposure to new fields in physics so that I can know the different fields and know if I might be interested.
  - ✓ Connection with other like-minded students.
  - ✓ More people to ask about physics.
  - ✓ Better grades.
  - ✓ I hope to develop a network of physics/astronomy students and faculty so that I have plenty of people to discuss the latest developments in both fields as they occur in the future. Especially the Large Hadron Collider developments.
- Study Buddies
  - It was suggested that a “study buddies” system of pairing students who would like to form a study group be set up on the UAH SPS website.
- Student Recruitment
  - It was decided by consensus that SPS should participate in future UAH Open House club fairs on the following dates: Oct. 11, Nov. 15, Feb. 21, April 18.
- College of Science event
  - The CoS picnic will not be held. Instead, Dr. Fix is looking into a group Sci-Quest trip.
- Announcements
  - HEOS Annual Banquet – Thursday, Sept. 4, starting at 5:30, U.S. Space and Rocket Center
  - HAL5 monthly program, Dr. John Christy, "Global Warming - Natural or Manmade?", Thursday, Sept. 4, 7:00 PM, Huntsville - Madison County Main Public library
  - Guest speaker Dr. Freddy Pranajaya, “Recent Nanosatellite Experiments launched on the ISRO Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle”, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 9:15 AM, NSSTC room 2096
  - MythBusters Moon Myth episode, Discovery Channel, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 8:00 PM
- Special topic: Why physics?
  - Physics is the basis of human society.
  - All science stems from physics.
  - Physics is interdisciplinary.

- In order to understand the stars, we need to understand physics.
- The physics of light is interesting.
- Physics has a lot of applications in technology.
- To understand the mind of God.
- Many discoveries lead to knowledge of the Universe.
- There are exciting breakthroughs every day.
- Many mysteries and questions to be answered.
- It was suggested that special meetings could be held at the University Center in order to attract passer-bys.
- Next meeting: Monday, Sept. 8, 5:00/5:05 PM