

July 9, 2008

Dear SACS-AAPT Member,

It is an honor for me to serve as the president of our South Atlantic Coast- AAPT section for 2008-2009. Our section is the only organized steward of physics teaching and learning in South Carolina and Georgia. A vibrant and growing SACS-AAPT is necessary to nurture and strengthen traditions of excellence in the teaching and learning of physics in our region. Physics is the most fundamental science and physics literacy is central to success in STEM disciplines. Greater physics literacy has become a critical imperative of the Information Age.

Over the years, our membership and participation has declined and this has been discussed in our section meetings. Many K12 and college/university faculty who had been active participants in the past have retired and not enough younger faculty have joined. The bulk of the active members have been two and four year college faculty, with notable participation in the past from research universities in South Carolina. We need a membership proportionally representative of entire spectrum of the teaching and learning of physics, ranging from high school, two/four year colleges to regional and research universities.

During this coming year I hope that we can work as a group towards the following outcomes:

- 1) Increase recruitment efforts by grassroots efforts by the membership
- 2) Attempt to leverage external funding for joint physics education projects
- 3) Work towards alliances with other groups also dedicated to science literacy
- 4) Increase scholarly interaction within SACS-AAPT with a focus on novel physics pedagogies, technology integration in curricula, undergraduate/K12 research and assessment of physics teaching/learning

To these ends, there are several possible actions that can be taken. At a minimum, we need to leverage external funding to reinvigorate our AAPT section. These resources can be used for faculty/student travel assistance to our meetings, collaborative physics education projects, K12 and undergraduate physics research programs, stipends for invited speakers and a physics outreach to other disciplines. . I intend to conduct a survey thru the section listserv to help focus an agenda for discussion at our Fall 2008 meeting which should lead us to an action plan. If you have any suggestions or comments on how we may make the above outcomes a reality, please do send them to me.

Sincerely,

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