EXECUTIVE BOARD
APPROVED MINUTES
September 22, 2004

Members Present:
Steve Collins, Modesto Junior College
Mary Ann Cox, Delta College representing Francisco Arce
David Dauwalder, CSU Stanislaus
George Railey, Columbia College
John Spevak, Merced College
Marcella Rodgers, HECCC Executive Director

Guests:
George Amann, Co-principal Investigator, AAPT PTRA
Lana Balatti, Physics Instructor, Merced College
Mike Cuchna, Dean of Instruction, Merced College
Terry Eyrich, Math & Science Division Chair, Merced College
Jim Klein, Interim Dean of College of ALS, CSU Stanislaus
Richard Fizell, Physics Instructor, San Joaquin Delta College
Stan Hitomi, Executive Director, Edward Teller Education Center
Ian Littlewood, Physics Dept. Chair, CSU Stanislaus
Andria Erzberger, PTRA Physics Workshops
Derek Madden, Modesto Junior College
Maria Pallavicini, Dean of Natural Sciences, UC Merced
Kevin Mitchell, Asst. Professor of Natural Sciences, UC Merced

Others Present:
Amy Faylor, Recorder

I. Introductions and Meeting Purpose
Introductions were made, guests were welcomed, and Dauwalder provided the group with a brief history of HECCC.

II. PTRA Program Overview
Program overview was made by Amann. The Physics Teaching Resource Agents (PTRA) program was established with a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 1985. Initially the program was geared to urban areas; however, in 2000 the Rural PTRA program was formed. The function of the program is to recruit primarily high school physics and physical science teachers from rural areas, and provide them with peer-facilitated training sessions at a central location (such as a university). The participants would have to commit to a minimum of three years in the program, which would include one five-day training session and two one day follow-up sessions annually.

Amann reported that rural physics teachers face unique challenges. For instance, rural schools often have just one physical science teacher. This teacher is assigned teaching physics courses, when their own physics experience is limited to one course taken during college.
The NSF grant provides participants with room and board, travel, and a stipend. Under the Rural PTRA project the same group of local teachers (a cohort) would participate for three consecutive years. Amann said that data indicated an 80% retention rate among participants, and that the Rural PTRA would like to add a fourth year to the program. The stipend would gradually increase, starting at $50 in Year One, to $60 in Year Two, and topping out at $80 in Year Three. Amann reported that some teachers have traveled up to 400 miles one-way to attend the training.

The goal of the training is to give the teachers the tools they need to effectively teach physics, and physical science related courses. The responsibilities of the host campus would include providing room and board (paid for by the grant), workshop space, etc. The responsibilities of the coordinator (Rodgers) would include recruiting participants, maintaining records, and acting as a liaison between the PTRA and the host site. The role of the PTRA would be to provide instructors/facilitators, arrange curriculum, arrange for stipends, pay the host site for room and board (to a maximum of $50 per day), and program evaluation.

Amann mentioned that one issue that has been problematic for other participating universities is the question of offering credit to the participants. Rodgers reported that credit may be available through CSUS Extended Education at the cost of $40 per unit.

Amann questioned whether CSU Stanislaus would be able to provide housing for the Friday-Saturday follow-up sessions. Since these sessions would be held while the university is in session, Dauwalder indicated that he would have to look into that possibility.

Amann also indicated that while the responsibility of the training would fall to the PTRA, any faculty from the host campus (or other HECCC members) would be welcome to help if they desire. In addition, while the participants must be limited to rural physics/physical science teachers, urban-based teachers can participate if spots are available, and if they pay $8 per workshop hour, plus provide their own room and board.

The ideal number of participants would be 25. However, if there are enough qualified applicants, it may be possible to include more. Amann also suggested the possibility of requesting a $50 refundable application fee, in order to cut down on “no-shows.” In addition, both “high tech” and “low tech” workshops are available, depending on the kind of equipment available from the host campus.

Rodgers reported that if the HECCC application were approved, the plan is to hold the 2005 summer session at CSU Stanislaus, the 2006 summer session at Columbia College, and the 2007 summer session is tentatively scheduled for UC Merced. The follow-up sessions are two days at 6 hours each, and could be rotated among the HECCC member institutions. The challenge would be to find housing for the follow-up sessions.

Andria Erzberger is one of six teachers in the Bay Area who has served as a trainer. The teacher workshops are not lecture and feature hands-on activities.

Applications for the workshops would be sent to Rodgers. Amann recommends that correspondence be sent directly to teachers and principals. Rodgers reported that the challenge has been finding teachers to serve as trainers. Many of the teachers contacted have expressed enthusiasm about participating in the program, but reluctance to serve as trainers. Physics faculty at the HECCC member institutions could be utilized to recruit participants.

III. Overview of Edward Teller Education Center (ETEC)
Hitomi provided an overview of this program, jointly funded by the University of California Office of the President, UC Davis, UC Merced, and Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. ETEC was developed to build a bridge between the research lab and the classroom. ETEC allows science teachers the opportunity to utilize LLL. There are several academies including biotechnology,
environmental science, astrophysics, nanotechnology, and biophotonics. Workshops are self-paced and are held at various sites on an ongoing basis.

IV. Group Discussion
One concern expressed was how to convince high school teachers to take time out of their lives to commit to the three year PT RA program. Pallavicini commented that University of California faculty is recommending earth system science be a required/recommended course for admission.

Many high school physics teachers are teaching sections that are not their area of expertise. They might be more likely to invest the time into the workshops, rather than the time and risk involved in a college-level course. Amann said that the key is making teachers realize that the program is in their best interest. He also suggested expanding beyond the HECCC six-county region, and suggested the possibility of recruiting from Nevada.

Spevak noted that it will be important to begin planning and recruiting immediately, as many teachers are already planning their summers. Have them lined up by January. While college faculty are not required to participate, under the PT RA guidelines, Spevak suggested that HECCC faculty may be able to make some contribution, such as facilitating communication. Rodgers suggested hosting a reception where community/university faculty could mingle with high school teachers. Spevak questioned whether HECCC should form a new faculty-to-faculty committee which would meet 2-4 times per year.

V. Board Action
Rodgers stated that the total cost that would not be covered by NSF grant monies would be $864. HECCC reserves could be used to cover that amount, however Jim Nelson (PT RA) had indicated a possibility that additional NSF funds could be found. In addition, commitment to participate as an RRC would mean time on the part of the HECCC Executive Director, which could impact other HECCC activities. Rodgers told the committee she was willing to take on the extra work. Spevak motioned to approve the proposal that HECCC apply to serve as an RRC. Dauwalder seconded, motion carried. Motion to form a Physics Faculty Sub-committee also carried.

VI. Campus Reports
CSU Stanislaus- President Marvalene Hughes has announced her retirement; however she will stay on as interim president until May 2005. The university has begun the process of searching for a new president. Current enrollment figures reflect 7,800 head count, down 42% from last year. The university has been permitted to run summer on self-support, and will need to enroll more during spring and fall 05 to meet targets. A 2.5% enrollment increase was funded for next year. Twenty-nine new faculty hires were approved. The CSUS Stockton Center is celebrating its 30 year anniversary this year.

Columbia College- The college is going through reorganization: staffing is down 20%, and there are 70 retirees district-wide. The college will be hiring a Vice President of Student Learning and a Vice President of Technology. On a district level, Measure E is moving forward. This $3 billion bond would provide funding into the next century.

Modesto Junior College- College is conducting 20 faculty searches through spring. The new pools have opened. Upon Pamela Fisher's retirement, Jim Williams has taken on YCCD Interim Chancellor responsibilities, with Bill Scroggins serving as MJC Interim President. Steve Collins will be serving as Acting Vice President for Instruction. MJC reports a 3% increase in enrollment.

San Joaquin Delta College- Cox reported that the $300 million bond measure passed. The college is deciding which project to begin first. On-campus construction has started, especially in science labs. The college has committed to have sites in Lodi and Tracy. Land has been purchased, and designs are in for the new Mountain House campus. Las Positas has also indicated that it will be expanding in the Tracy region. Faculty and the administration have
agreed on a three-year contract, which will include a 10% increase over three years. Negotiations with classified are still ongoing. The college is not offering the golden handshake at this time. Instead there is a procedure to offer the full benefit package at current premiums upon retirement. Since premiums will be going up, this might encourage people to retire before August 2005.

Merced College- Buildings are the number one challenge. The new classroom building will be the first new building on campus in 30 years. Faculty and staff are moving out of the science building, which will undergo an 18 month renovation. The college will be breaking ground in spring on a permanent campus in Los Banos, which should be completed by 2007. An accreditation team will be visiting in March. Eight to fourteen new faculty will be hired for 2005-06.

UC Merced- The University currently has 36 faculty members, and is targeted to have 60 faculty in place by July 2005. Curriculum and policies are under development. Construction is moving along, including dorms. The university has its first group of grad students: fourteen, with two more to be added in the spring.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Faylor
HECCC Office