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Kevin Marvel, Executive Officer
American Astronomical Society
2000 Florida Ave., NW Suite 400
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December 19, 2006

Dear Kevin,

Here is a short report on the 2006 meeting of Chairs and Program Directors, held at the O'Hare Hilton on 3-4 November 2006. The date was chosen to precede the annual meeting of the Midwest Physics Chairs group, in the same hotel.

The meeting was organized by You-Hua Chu (U. Illinois) and Linda Sparke (U. Wisconsin), with the help of Bob Rood (U. Virginia) for our e-mail communications and Jeri Cochran (U. Illinois) as administrative assistant. Caty Pilachowski (U. Indiana) and Peter Shull (Oklahoma State U.) took the notes, to be posted at astsun.astro.virginia.edu/~rtr/astro-chairs/

We had 40 participants, about 25% more than in 2004. There were 33 department and program chairs, representing 2 undergraduate institutions, 2 institutions with MS programs, 16 combined departments of Physics and Astronomy, and 10 stand-alone departments of Astronomy. Dale Frail attended for NRAO. For the afternoon session, Eileen Friel came from NSF to discuss the outcome of the Senior Review, and Hashima Hasan from NASA's Office of Space Science to discuss the prospects for grant programs supporting science missions and analysis.

The group decided to meet again in 2008, with the date and place similarly chosen. We would request a meeting room for the Friday evening discussion of introductory survey teaching, rather than meeting over dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Many thanks to you and to Susana Deustua for coming, and to Kelli Gilmore and the AAS meetings staff for their help!

Sincerely,

Linda Sparke
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attached: list of attendees, meeting notes