



Forum on Education

American Physical Society

Executive Committee Meeting
April 17, 2005, Marriott Waterside, Tampa, FL
Minutes and Notes by Ernie

Voting Members Present: Wolfgang Christian, Karen Cummings, Paula Heron, Ramon Lopez, Ernie Malamud, Peggy McMahan, Gay Stewart, Larry Woolf, Pete Zimmerman

Voting Members Absent: Robert Ehrlich

Newly elected voting members present (term begins at end of Business meeting): David Haase, David Meltzer, Greg Snow,

Non-voting Members Present: Ted Hodapp (APS), Richard Petersen (AAPT)

Non-voting Members Absent: Joe Redish (CoE), Tom Rossing (Newsletter Editor)

Guests: Marty Blume (APS Editor-in-Chief, by phone), Stan Brown (APS Editorial Division Director), Jessica Clark (APS Public Outreach Specialist), Jack Hehn (AIP), Tom McIlrath (APS Treasurer)

Chair Gay Stewart called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Since the agenda was long it was agreed to extend the meeting from 3:15 to 5. Introductions were made. Peggy announced the results of the recent election.

Minutes of the January 14, 2005 Executive Committee Meeting (teleconference) were approved.

Ramon announced that the APS Council at their April 15 meeting approved the change in the FED bylaws. One change is in Section VII.4, Vacancies in Office. ..deals with vacancies in the chair line and then continues "...if a vacancy occurs among any other position, the Executive Committee may fill the position with a member of the Forum until the next regular election. If a member of the Executive Committee is absent from two consecutive meetings of the Executive committee, that position shall be declared vacant." (the revised bylaws will be posted on the FED web page shortly). In discussion it was clarified that teleconferences are included.

Michael Zeilik, APS/AAPT Member-at-Large has resigned. Ernie was asked to fill the remaining year of his term as a voting member of the Executive Committee.

Treasurer's Report (Ernie)

Summary of 2004

Revenues. 3 major categories

Membership Revenue	\$15,208	71.44%
Meeting Revenue: Mar/Apr = 169/2794	\$2,963	13.92%
Allocated investment income	\$3,117	14.64%
	\$21,288	

Expenses.

Newsletter: includes printing copies for distribution at AAPT meeting and mail to 253 Dept. chairs (graduate programs) and \$300 to Andy Morrison, Tom's student to format	\$1,463	7.85%
Meeting Expenses	\$1,900	10.19%
Postage (big chunk for mailing to Dept. Chairs), Telephone, supplies	\$1,345	7.21%
Travel (includes reg. Fee waivers for new fellows)	\$5,841	31.32%
One-time ballot set up charge (for APS to take over voting)	\$600	3.22%
WYP grant to 4CS	\$500	2.68%
Match to 1st two Excellence in Physics Ed Award donations	\$7,000	37.54%
	\$18,649	100.00%

Funds available.

we began the Fiscal Year with	\$37,675
our income-expense is positive	\$2,639
funds available at the end of 2004	\$40,314

Note: the following rough budget was revised based on the discussion during the meeting and also using the most recent APS report for the 3-month period ending 3/31/05 (was in the mail at home when I returned from Tampa)

Membership Revenue	\$15,598
Allocated investment income (3 months)	\$933
Expenses so far in 2005 (mainly sorters travel)	-\$518
funds available at beginning of April 2005	\$56,327

"Budget" for the rest of this fiscal year

Note: * = "up to"

Some anticipated expenditures:

Additional match to the Excellence in Physics Education Award	-\$23,000	
Mini-grants. We approved 8 x \$500 per year	-\$4,000	*
Support of PR ST - Physics Education Research	-\$5,000	*
Support of Hodapp's Teacher Licensure Project (\$2,500 will be billed soon)	-\$5,000	
Travel estimate	-\$6,000	
Support of Foundations and Frontiers in Physics Education Research Conference, Aug 14-19	-\$3,000	
Support of joint DAMOP/FEd invited session at AAPT Summer Meeting	-\$4,000	*
Postage, telephone, supplies, miscellaneous	-\$1,000	

Some anticipated revenues

Meeting Revenue - Meeting Expense (March and April)	\$1,000
Allocated investment income (9 months)	\$2,000
End 2005 projected	\$8,327

FEd Website (Ernie agreed to continue to maintain the website; now can modify pages directly on the APS server)

February 18 Congressional Visit Day; February 19 convocation; next FEd Executive Committee face-to-face meeting

Ramon and Ernie attended the convocation. It is very useful for newly elected officers to attend especially to get to know members of the APS staff who provide a multitude of services that enable our unit to function efficiently.

Congressional visits are important, especially in this era of poor funding for research in the physical sciences. Ernie stated that this would be a reason to have our next face-to-face meeting during the March 13-17, 2006 meeting in Baltimore rather than the April 22-25, 2006 meeting in Dallas.

Later in the meeting the consensus was to hold our next face-to-face meeting at the March meeting. Ramon confirmed this in a subsequent email.

World Year of Physics (Jessica Clark). The World Year of Physics is going strong. We have two projects in the schools right now. The first one is for middle school and is a treasure hunt of sorts. The students are performing experiments that give them clues to find a treasure Einstein has hidden. The high school project is the measurement of Earth's radius with shadows, the Eratosthenes project. High school classrooms were paired with others that are "longitudinally compatible" but 200 miles apart. The two classes then collaborate on a simple measurement of radius of the Earth.

We were able to fund twenty "Physics on the Road" programs operated out of physics departments with \$10,000 grants to expand their programs for WYP2005. In one case, Towson State University, the funds are seed money that will start an outreach program in their department. Einstein@Home is our distributed computing project searching for gravitational waves using LIGO and GEO600 data. The screensaver is running on over 100,000 computers and is growing every day.

Lastly, the Physics Talent Search is up and running. (<http://usphysicstalentsearch.org/>). FEd members can register to evaluate students in their area. More information on these projects can be found at www.physics2005.org. Also, there is a place on that site where you can register any event you are planning for the World Year.

Program Subcommittee (Ramon). There were 7 FEd sponsored or co-sponsored sessions at this meeting. Karen stressed how good were the FEd sessions "Presenting Advanced Topics to Undergrads" organized by David Ehrenstein (at the April 2004 and March 2005 meetings) and hoped that they would be repeated annually.

Fellowship Subcommittee (Wolfgang) This year 8 candidates were proposed for Fellow and the committee approved 6. (see the FEd web page for citations and photos). Gay is now chair of the Fellowship Subcommittee; Ramon will appoint other members of the committee. Nominations need to be submitted to APS by June 15. In searching for names of people to recommend it was suggested that one look at the NSF database on who has received grants for physics education.

Fundraising for the Excellence in Physics Education Award (Wolfgang). Our marketing "gimmick" is to "Honor a Teacher." The award will be covered in APS news. Advertising the award was done at all the FEd sessions at this meeting.

After discussion it was decided that the remaining FEd approved match (\$23,000) would be moved into the award account on a month-by-month basis as donations and pledges are made. The situation is somewhat confused because the spreadsheet showing the individual gifts from the APS Development Department is somewhat ahead (in time) from the Schedule of Restricted Funds, mailed to the Secretary-Treasurer at the end of each month. I spoke with Darlene Logan, Director of Development and Mike Stephens, APS Controller on April 22 to try and clarify the numbers and establish how the remaining \$23,000 would be allocated. I decided (and I hope this is OK), that the match would be added to the award balance **on a month-by-month basis beginning April 1, 2005**. The following is a summary: (gifts include pledges). One more note to Bruce, our new Secretary-Treasurer: I believe we should count the remaining match as the even \$23,000 and not reduced by interest as Darlene has been doing. So this needs to be clarified with the Development Department.

Initial two gifts (matched)	\$7,000
next 50 gifts through Mar. 31 (will not be matched)	\$24,566
2004 investment income	\$490
2005 investment income through 3/31	\$407
match to the first two gifts	\$7,000
investment income on above through 3/31	\$419
	\$39,882
9 gifts and pledges including \$50 cash mailed to Development Dept. in April	\$1,000
these will be matched	\$1,000
total through April 22	\$41,882

Balance of available match is therefore \$22,000.

FED financial support for the new PR ST – Physics Education Research Marty Blume (APS Editor-in-Chief, by phone), Stan Brown (APS Editorial Division Director), and Tom McIlrath (APS Treasurer) joined the discussion. In making a budget for this new member of the Physical Review family there are uncertainties: how many submissions, how many will be accepted for publication, how many pages. Assuming 30 articles/year and 10 pages/article the costs will be \$45,000. As with the other open access journal (PR- ST Accelerators and Beams) it is expected the journal will lose money which is acceptable on a short-term basis but not on a long-term basis. PR – ST Accelerators and Beams currently has a subsidy from the national labs. There is no real equivalent for PR – ST – PER. Page charges would be requested in a letter to the author. It was suggested that a cc of the letter go to the author's department chair. There were strong objections to this. For those authors that cannot pay the page charges, a committee (distinct from the Editorial Committee which is concerned with quality not ability to pay) would decide what to do. To start up the journal, AAPT has pledged up to \$15,000/year. Second in line would be the FED and then APS would pick up the rest as needed. Although PER is not synonymous with the FED, the bottom line is that the FED should support the PER community. After a long discussion the following motion was made and passed unanimously: "The FED commits support of the new PR – ST – PER journal up to \$5,000/year for a period of 3 years to defray page charges. This commitment expires July 1, 2008. The commitment will be reviewed for renewal in the spring of 2007."

Paula was appointed to chair a FED subcommittee dealing with the new journal. An editorial support team has been assembled at the APS office in Ridge, New York. Bob Beichner will act as the Editor (and be located at North Carolina State University), and an Editorial Board is being recruited. The peer review process will be centered at Ridge, composition of accepted articles will be done by an outside vendor, and the journal itself will be mounted on the APS server.

APS Council (Pete). Pete summarized the more interesting parts of the Council meeting. Our bylaws revision was unanimously approved. Policy resolutions on various topics (OSTP, Power Lines, Research Funding) were approved. However, an "APS Statement on Management at the US National Laboratories" was sent back to a subcommittee of the Council for more work. At the meeting Marty Blume (APS Editor-in-Chief) told a story about Einstein, Gravitational Waves and peer review at the Physical Review. Pete shared this fascinating tale with us. It will appear in a future issue of Physics Today.

APS Report (Ted):

The status of Teacher Licensure on a state-by-state basis is being investigated. Ted distributed a spreadsheet showing the status in each state. So far he has used \$2,500 of the \$5,000 allocated by the FED for this crucial work and estimates that 1 week/year of APS staff time will be needed to keep the spread sheet up to date. Standards are currently changing in Maine, Pennsylvania, Alaska (and possibly Minnesota). FED members in the critical states are needed to get involved in the process. The people who become involved need to learn politically sensitive ways in which to talk to state level boards of education. It was suggested that there be a training session at local APS/AAPT section meetings. Ted will present an action plan at the next FED meeting. The California situation (while not currently being changed) is interesting and important. Larry Woolf volunteered to summarize it for the next newsletter.

This led to a discussion of how to identify people in each state from our 4,000 members who could become involved. The last member survey done is summarized in the Spring 2001 Newsletter: (<http://www.aps.org/units/fed/newsletters/spring2001/survey.cfm>). However, repeated attempts by Ernie and Jim Wynne (who was website administrator at the time) to obtain the survey raw data (which would have a list of individual members who volunteered to work on teacher licensure) have failed. In any case it is probably time for a fresh member survey since another issue to explore is how well our newsletter is reaching our membership. Karen and Ted volunteered to craft a member survey and Ernie volunteered to work with them to add some questions concerning the newsletter.

Ted then discussed a recent PhysTEC review. The activities at the Primary Program Institutions were well reviewed, the coalition somewhat less so.

Ted showed us interesting graphs that he had also presented at the April 15 Council meeting. The number of Bachelor degrees in physics is increasing and will reach 5,000 in 2005. FED needs to be concerned with the future employment for these people. Jack Hehn and Roman Czujko (AIP SRC, statistical research center) will write an article for the FED Summer Newsletter focused on advice to departments based on statistics about jobs at the bachelor level and how departments might integrate that information into their departmental plans. The article will include a box with information about resources available through the AIP SRC.

Ted showed another graph illustrating severe cuts in EHR (NSF). There is a long-term trend down on the number of physics education awards. What to do? For the APS to muster its significant lobbying expertise on a particular issue there first needs to be a resolution by the APS Council. The timeline goes as follows. The FED needs to propose a resolution on physics education to POPA at their October meeting. It would then go up to the council at their November meeting. What the FED needs to do is address the work force issue and prepare a one page summary with supporting background. Once lobbying begins the key is to find a champion of the cause in Congress. In the short term letters can be written but we need to order our priorities so a coherent message is sent. A subcommittee consisting of Ramon (Chair), Dave Meltzer, Karen and Greg will prioritize the issues and prepare a draft statement.

Newsletter: Karen distributed copies of the (pdf version) of the Spring Newsletter. Ernie proposed that the Summer 2005 issue focus on WYP.

AAPT Report (Richard Petersen)

The joint DAMOP/FED session at the AAPT Summer Meeting in Salt Lake City, August 6-10, 2005, organized by Carl Wieman, will be a plenary session so a large audience is expected. This brought up the issue of FED support of the session.. In order to establish a limit the following motion was made and approved: "The FED commits up to \$4,000 for reproduction of curriculum materials, travel, and a reception for the joint DAMOP/FED session at the AAPT Summer Meeting."

Which APS Division is next? (at the July 22-26, 2006 AAPT Summer meeting in Syracuse) Peggy stated that DNP is interested but was concerned about how much money it would cost. With the amount of FED commitment resolved Peggy will go back to the DNP Executive Committee and see if they will commit to doing the 3rd in this series. ***2006 is the AAPT 75th anniversary.***

Dick proposed that at the Salt Lake City meeting we have a joint meeting of the FED Executive Committee meeting and the AAPT Governing Board. It wasn't clear if there would be a quorum of the FED Executive Committee (6 voting members); if so there could also be a FED Executive Committee meeting. Incidentally, I took minutes at the joint meeting we had in Sacramento August 2, 2004 if anyone wants a copy.

Foundations and Frontiers in Physics Education Research Conference (Paula). August 15 – 19 in Bar Harbor. Preparations are well advanced. Ernie will put in a link to the conference web page. The proceedings will be in the Fall newsletter.

Strategic planning conference on undergraduate physics education (Ramon). This was mentioned briefly; Ramon wants to organize it this year.

Meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.