

## 4/1/2012 FEd Executive Committee Meeting

Renee called meeting to order, acting for Chandralekha Singh, who could not be present in person.

Attendees: Paul Cottle, Dan Crowe, Amber Stuver, Noah Finkelstein, Rachel Scherr, Tyler Glembo, Renee Diehl, Chandralekha Singh (phone), Larry Woolf, Monica Plisch, Scott Franklin, Alice Churukian, Dick Peterson, Angie Little, Mel Sabella (phone), Laird Kramer (phone), Gay Stewart (phone), Ted Hodapp

### Approval of Minutes

Dick Peterson moves to approve, Larry seconds. Unanimous approval

### Newsletter schedule

Renee announces newsletter editor schedule.

Nic Rady- summer 2012. Beth Lindsay – fall 2012. Paul Dolan – spring 2013.

Amber proposes topic for Newsletter. She just led session on outreach to non-physics groups. Proposes to organize talks from that session into a complete Newsletter. Larry suggests contacting editors to see if they're receptive to giving over their Newsletters or doing joint Newsletter w/Nic. Renee asks for list of contributors.

Renee announces the new Forum on Outreach and Educating the Public (FOEP). As a result of the formation of this new Forum, there is a new FEd bylaw requiring representation from FOEP on the FEd program committee. Paul will ensure that this happens for 2012/13.

### Renee discusses 2012 March meeting sessions.

- Invited session jointly w/GQI Teaching Quantum Information Science at UG institutions. Attendance was about 70 people.
- Research Collaboration between faculty and undergrad students, organized jointly with SPS, 25-50 attendees.
- Invited session organized w/FIAP on Astronomy Detectors in Physics Education - about 9-21 attendees.
- Invited session organized w/FPS on Novel & Proven methods of communicating to public, ~50 attendees.
- Invited session on K-12 Science Education: Closing the Gap with the Leading Nations, attendance 75-100.
- Focus session on Informal Education and Public Outreach
- Scientific Reasoning in physics course. 80-130 people.
- Focus session with FIAP: Students, physics and Innovation.
- Focus session - Physics education research & resources
- Invited session on Entrepreneurship, 60-120 attendees.

Renee asks about putting slides from sessions on the Fed website.

**ACTION: SCOTT will find out about linking this through Compadre & maybe on FEd website.**

One omission in the conference program was an indication of co-sponsorship by AAPT. Dick Peterson had moved earlier to include AAPT in the program as a co-sponsor for the sessions that

they co-organize. That did not happen. The main reason is that AAPT does not appear in the pull-down list of sponsoring units, and also because the web system currently does not allow more than 2 co-sponsors. A reminder to add the AAPT affiliation should go out on next FEd calendar.

Dick proposes Fed EC members attend sessions if possible.

Renee discusses the 2012 April meeting sessions.

- Several sessions at April meeting jointly organized w/SPS on undergraduate research and outreach. These sessions were generally speaking well-attended, ~40.
- Invited session w/DAP on Research in Cosmology Education, 20-25 attendees.
- Invited sessions jointly with FGSA and the AAPT Graduate Education committee on Goals and Assessment of the Physics Graduate Program.
- Focus session on 100 years of Cosmic Rays: attendees 20.
- Joint Invited session with COM on Students as Colleagues: 25-35 attendees.
- Focus session jointly with DAP: Cosmic Rays Education and Fast-than-Light Controversies
- Invited session jointly with the EdTech Committee of AAPT: Teaching & Learning through Compadre: 30 attendees
- Invited session - HS Physics teachers supply & demand 35-40.
- Invited session - Role of physics departments preparing instructors of physics
- Focus session on Physics Education Research – Issues into intro classes, modeling and gender.

Dan comments on some double-booking of sessions and some open sessions. Renee points out that it's a negotiation at the program committee meetings in the fall and avoiding all conflicts is difficult. Renee feels April meeting went better than the March meeting in terms of not double-booking w/relevant sessions.

Chandralekha asks about plenary session at summer AAPT in Philadelphia. Renee says that's already set up w/Division of Biological Physics. Speakers have already been arranged.

Paul Cottle reports for the nominating committee.

Committee Members: Paul Cottle (Florida State University, FEd Vice Chair), Chair, Paula Engelhardt (Tennessee Technological University), Paul Gueye (Hampton University, President-Elect, National Society of Black Physicists), Jill Marshall (University of Texas – Austin, President-Elect, AAPT), Laurie McNeil (University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill), Michael Thoennesen (Michigan State University, APS Committee on Education)

Nominees (\* = elected): *Vice Chair*: \*Michael Fauerbach (Florida Gulf Coast University), David Peterson (Francis Marion University) *Executive Committee at large – AAPT member required*: Dennis Kuhl (Marietta College), \*Mel Sabella (Chicago State University) *Executive Committee at large*: \*Dan Crowe (Loudon County (VA) Public Schools), Michael Jackson (Central Washington University)

Paul will chair Program Committee for March & April 2013 meetings. Soliciting for ideas. Proposed joint session on Energy Education.

Larry Woolf discusses the APS FEd governance website.

Wants to make people aware of what is on the site. Some things have been added since last year, and the duty calendar has been edited. Also on this site are the APS/AAPT memorandums of understanding, the guidelines for newsletter editors, and the excellence in physics education award duties. Send changes to Scott.

Noah asks about using an APS Wiki to remove Scott as choke point for posting new information. A template and place has been created on APS Wiki site for minutes and budgets. Note that minutes & budgets should be kept for EC eyes only. Therefore, a Wiki should be internal only.

**ACTION: Scott will set up internal wiki.**

Bo Hammer gives the AIP report, on AIP Resources, News & publicity, Center for History of Physics, the physics archives, outreach & governmental relations. He focused on 2 things:

1. Sigma Pi Sigma Quadrennial Physics Congress. This helps to make connections w/society & provide a global context in students' minds. 500-600 attended last time. This year it will be located near Kennedy Space Center. It will have noted plenary speakers and a space-science focus. Registration opens in May.

2. Annual industrial physics forum. This will be the first one outside the US. Themes will include capacity building for industrial physics in developing & emerging economies. Threads will include materials, energy, optics, microfluidics, physics education, & policy.

Dick asks about students with financial needs. Bo says e-mail him.

Noah asks about PhysTEC or teacher focus. Bo says no. Noah suggests some presence.

Larry Woolf provides and update on the Excellence in Physics Education Award

No award was made in 2012, for the first time in its 5 year history. There was a report from the selection committee on issues they would like to have resolved. As a result, guidelines will be on FEd Governance website.

Issues that were raised by the selection committee:

1. What is minimum level of excellence needed? (Up to the committee)
2. What constitutes evidence of excellence? (See response 1)
3. Should programs be considered that only address narrow branch of physics? (Yes)
4. Should selection be compared w/previous award winner? (No)

Issues now:

- need to obtain sufficient candidates for next award. Deadline is July 1. If you know of anybody, nominate them. Self-nominations are not encouraged. Applications are held for a total of 3 years consideration.

Dick asks about the selection committee membership & how committee is chosen. Woolf describes the process, which is available on the FEd governance website.

Chandralekha adds that no new nominations have arrived yet. In exceptional cases an individual may be considered.

Larry adds that original intent was to be different from current AAPT awards (which award individuals as opposed to programs). Noah points out that the EC should take on responsibility to nominate groups. Ted points out that this is a responsibility for senior members of the community.

Larry reported that we don't have enough money to fund the award. Not sure where the money went. Ted guesses we spent a lot on travel. New decision was made to limit total travel allocation to be maximum of \$2,000, guaranteed by FEd, plus the \$5k award. Need \$125,000 to be solvent.

Noah, Bruce Mason, & Larry agreed to be responsible for increasing the endowment. Larry asks for point person on FEd. Renee agrees to contact APS & be point of contact.

**ACTION: Larry & Renee follow the money.**

*Note added on 2/5/2013 – it turned out that the earlier report of low funds was incorrect and the endowment is already fully funded.*

**ACTION: Scott. Publicize to FEd members existence of donation to the award fund.**

Chandralekha & Scott thank Larry for working with the selection committee to clarify the procedures.

Renee reports on registration fees related to conferences.

Renee reports that invited speakers won't be charged registration this year. Noah protests that invited speakers will be charged registration fees next year. Larry points out that no clear written policy from APS was ever provided. Speakers we're talking about are non-physicists, not members of APS and the concern is that it is insulting to ask them to pay registration for a meeting that they would not otherwise attend.

**ACTION: SCOTT might find resolution to this at Unit Convocation.**

Scott presents the budget.

An estimate in the budget for the cost of travel to the executive meeting is rough based on last year and might not be accurate. As long as we stay below \$50-60K we don't have a problem with having too much money to receive our \$20K annual allocation. We can consider having the EC meeting at March Meeting if necessary to reduce the costs. It is decided that:

**ACTION: Renee will poll the EC members for preference of an EC meeting in March vs. April.**

Chandralekha talks about the proposed TeachSpin Award (Reichert)

Renee: doesn't seem immediately appropriate for APS award. Need large pool of money to endow the award. The Reicherts want to guarantee FEd Lab education session every April meeting.

Larry: not inappropriate, just not in concordance w/APS rules (e.g. need \$5k for award, not \$3k, what type of session, etc...)

Noah: like rewarding education commitment. Be careful about how it's done. The award should not require an individual, maybe a group?

Gay: need to make absolutely sure that this doesn't conflict with any AAPT awards. ALPHA works with both APS & AAPT, need to make sure this doesn't step on toes. Cannot be a prize, must be award.

Ted: has talked w/Jonathan Reichert. He came to APS because this is where he gets his business; doesn't exhibit at AAPT as much. Suggests we bring Alan Chodos and others to discussion. Shouldn't be too difficult to accommodate spirit of award.

Noah: Is there a possibility of joint APS/AAPT award?

Gay: possibility exists for joint award. Because ALPHA is separate entity, could possibly do something joint. Prefer APS March Meeting for award. Higher visibility for APS award (vs. Forum)

**ACTION: Chandralekha forwards e-mail to Alan Chodos to discuss how this works within APS rules & regulations. Then, negotiate w/Jonathan. Gay joins to explore possibility of joint award.**

*Report from Alan - Alan fears it's too specialized. Maybe something administered by the forum, not by APS as a whole. Committee agrees with this forum-centric view.*

Renee: APS Statement on Undergraduate Research

Renee introduces statement. It was prepared by COE a year or so ago. It seems heavy on employment and justifying an increased number of physics majors.

Larry: statement should be rationalized by improvement of physics education, not just increased numbers of physics majors. That does exist in the statement, just in parts. Distill out of it parts that are concerned w/PER.

Dick: agrees. AAPT statement on same matter seems more straightforward.

Noah: it is a bit dated. It was written a few years ago. It could be modified it so it is timely in general terms, or it could incorporate more recent reports so more specifically timely. Does it need to come through the FED EC? It doesn't appear to need this. Noah can do this w/o the Forum approval. It would be stronger w/forum approval, though.

**ACTION: Noah proposes FED & COE work together. Noah takes the lead. He will submit a 500 word statement to FED EC for approval. Chair of COE & Chair of FED can then bring it to POPA.**

APS President Robert Byer

Gives context of the new strategic plan. Work on it began in Jan. 2011. Now, how to discuss plan with leaders (outgoing & incoming). It should go out publically in May.

Physics & APS needs to better mirror demographics of community. Better recognition of current minority members. Not just racial/gender. Other cohorts, e.g. industrial physicists (good for students), international members, early-career (grad student, post-doc, 1<sup>st</sup> few years of job).

Discussions about international engagement. Should APS become the world's physics society? No, but looking for more examples to partner w/international agencies, etc. There is the challenge of communicating more effectively.

APS should also establish stronger domestic partnerships, e.g. AAPT, AIP, SPS. The final goal is to look inward to increase organizational excellence.

Existing Task Forces: *Financial Stability*, looking at opportunities in development. *Reimagining our meetings*. We need to have a strategic view of meetings, the April meeting, in particular, which tends to lose money. *AIP/APS relations*.

Chandra: Is there consideration of a APS/AAPT joint meeting?

Kate: trying, but having difficulties.

Noah: It makes sense for APS to broaden participation & representation of education. There are lots of natural synergies.

Dan: Is it useful to industry for meeting to encourage collaborations between industry & academia?

Renee: APS should appeal to the general love of physics that people w/physics degrees have. IOP does that well.

Noah: APS stands to be leader among disciplinary societies.

Ted: There is opportunity for collaboration between the FEd & APS meetings. The March meeting is 40% grad students. Is there some way for FEd to interact w/that 40%.

**ACTION: FEd thinks about how to engage 4000 grad students at March meeting.**

Noah Finkelstein

How does FEd feel about a PER Topical group in the APS? Currently AAPT is home to PER, even though APS publishes PRST-PER, which is currently the fastest growing Phys. Rev. journal and has the lowest acceptance rate.

To establish a new topical group requires 200 signatures in 12 months. Eric Brewe, John Thompson, & Noah are conducting a survey and would like to have the FEd's support for the survey.

**ACTION: Scott will collate response on survey.**

Gay: be careful re: AAPT. Can't be seen as encouraging people to leave AAPT for APS.

Ted: APS just appointed Charles Henderson editor of PRST-PER. APS has been supporting this journal quite substantially over the last 6 years. PER community has been getting a lot of APS support. APS invested >\$200,000 in PRST-PER

#### Ted Hodapp reports on APS

Bridge program to promote underrepresented minority Ph.D.s has possibly been funded by NSF. DoE is also interested, hoping for next fiscal year funded. The notion of bridge programs raises the question of how do we think about graduate education? FED can weigh in as well.

PhysTEC continues. Submitted grant w/Cal State system.

ACS is replicating PhysTEC w/CTEC.

Task force on Teacher Education is about to release report.

Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics took place in January 2012 and will take place again in January 2013.

Noah, Ted, & others are working on a 1 page summary of teacher quality.

Threat to physics programs. Most departments produce 0-5 majors/year. APS support is critical to saving programs from being eliminated. Ted is running a conference specifically for departments with low-enrollment or minority focus. 3/35 HBCU physics departments have closed. Only 2 HBCUs graduate more than 5 physics majors a year. HBCUs graduate more than half of all minority physics majors in country.

The March Meeting had 540 (record #) of undergraduates. 140 at April Meeting.

Ted submitted proposal to APS to address diversity w/in APS and proposes an annual census of leadership in APS.

#### Noah report on COE

Highlights:

- new relationships between K-12 engineering education & K-12 physics education
- new COE award for excellence in undergraduate education
- developing resource guides (PER Users guide), new faculty workshops, etc.

#### Renee thanks exiting EC members

Need to have election early because Gay's term ends for Councillor. Gay agrees to be nominated for a second term.

#### Meeting Adjourned