



# Forum on Education

American Physical Society

## Minutes – 2014 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the APS Forum on Education

**April 5, 2014, 6:30 pm, Savannah, GA**

Cottle called the meeting to order.

Present in the meeting room were Diehl, Fauerbach, Knight, Lewandowski and Cottle.

Present via phone conference were Crowe, Little, Potvin, Sabella and Stewart.

Hodapp, Kirby and Plisch arrived during the meeting.

Cottle called for approval of the minutes from the 2013 meeting. Fauerbach said he wanted to correct the minutes. He will resubmit the minutes to the Executive Committee when he is finished.

Fauerbach reported on FEd program at the March and April Meetings. Knight reported on activities of the Nominating Committee and the election results.

Diehl reported winners of Excellence in Physics Education Award and Reichert Award, and FEd nominees elected to APS Fellowship.

Cottle reported adoption of K-12 and undergraduate research statements by the APS.

Report on newsletter by Editor Beth Lindsey prompted considerable discussion both about the future of the newsletter and about the mission of FEd in general. Stewart expressed concern about the identity of FEd. She cited the loss of members from 4740 (9.9% of APS membership) in 2010 to 4490 (8.9% of APS membership) in 2014, the need to pay invited speakers, and the loss of printed newsletters. The contribution to the membership decline by the establishment of FOEP was discussed. Committee decided on a more limited focus - establishment of a task force chaired by Editor Lindsey to look at the future of the newsletter.

Diehl and Hodapp reported that the report of the 2013 Conference on Graduate Education was ready for release.

Cottle reported that the APS had decided that Forum invited speakers would be charged half of a one-day registration at national meetings.

The budget distributed with the agenda was adopted. However, the committee decided not to adopt new regulations regarding Exec Comm travel reimbursement at this time. Instead, the committee decided to ask the new Secretary-Treasurer to formulate a consistent policy on reimbursement.

Diehl pointed out that the \$3000 allocated for the Excellence in Physics Education Award expenses is intended to INCLUDE meeting registration for the awardees.

It was suggested that endowment information (both principal and income) be included in the budget spreadsheet to provide a more complete and informed picture of the Forum's financial situation.

Eric Brewe reported on the status of the new Topical Group on Physics Education Research (GPER). He said that the primary foci of the GPER Exec Comm are presently: having monthly GPER meetings (via remote conference); GPER's Grand Challenge exercise; revising the PACS scheme; and, participation in the April Meeting Task Force.

Hodapp suggested that FEd might want to set up invited sessions at Division meetings. Lewandowski expressed an interest in setting up a FEd invited session at a DAMOP meeting. The Exec Comm authorized her to do so, in consultation with Knight, who is the Program Chair for the 2015 national meetings.

Hodapp described efforts to save university physics departments at institutions where they are fairly productive (typically 5 graduates per year). He focused on ramping up production of physics teachers at these institutions as a way of increasing the numbers of graduates and addressing a clear national need. A Thriving Undergraduate Programs workshop similar to the one held in 2013 will be held in Seattle in February of 2015.

Plisch described effort to prepare for submission of PhysTEC 3.0 proposal to NSF in 2015. Big vision for the proposal is solving the problem. She reported that the new proposal would increase emphasis on recruiting (as does the present RFP on the present grant). The new online Modeling course being piloted this fall will likely also be part of the new proposal. Plisch and Rachel Scherr are planning a "listening tour" to collect input.

Hodapp described the work of the new Joint Task Force on Undergraduate Education. He also reported that Cal State Long Beach and Florida State have been awarded new APS Bridge Program sites.

Submitted by Cottle.