



Forum on Education

American Physical Society

Minutes of the Forum on Education Executive Committee Meeting

Baltimore, April 13, 2015

Time: ~6:00pm, Immediately following the FEd Business Meeting

Phone: 1-800-944-8766, Participant Code: 43207#

Location: Stone (Baltimore Hilton)

Attendees

In Person: Paul Cottle, Dan Crowe, Karen Cummings, Michael Fauerbach, Charles Henderson, Ted Hodapp, Randy Knight, Heather Lewandowski, Tim Stelzer, Gay Stewart, John Stewart

Via Phone: Steve Iona, Beth Lindsey, Geoff Potvin, Mel Sabella, Wendy Adams

Unable to Attend: Michael Barnett, Jorge Lopez

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Secretary/Treasurer Report (*Charles*)
 - a. Budget
 - We will allocate \$7000 to the program chair to support FEd speaker and program chair travel and registration. These funds can be used at discretion of Vice Chair
 - We will allocate \$5000 for FEd EC members to collaborate with other groups (this is the budget category named "Good Works").
 - We will sponsor half of the Diversity and Education reception. This is budgeted at \$2000.
 - Since our budget year is the calendar year, which doesn't mesh well with our meetings, it was suggested that we have a fall phone conference (or email conference) to set the budget for 2016.
 - Proposed budget passed unanimously.
 - b. Membership Trends
 - We are concerned that the percentage of APS members who join FEd is decreasing.
 - It is important for us to articulate the value of being a FEd member.
 - The sorters meeting is important - it is important to make sure that conflicts between sessions are minimized (although it is not clear that we can control where contributed sessions are placed).

- How do we get student members to come to our sessions?
 - Topic, for example, how to write a teaching philosophy?
3. Chair-Elect Report (*Randy*)
 - We have sponsored high quality sessions. There is concern that attendance at FEd sessions has been low.
 - How do we drive traffic to our sessions?
 - It is important to keep track of how much money got spent on registrations - did we get charged correctly for the 1-day registrations.
 - a. FEd session at DAMOP meeting (*Heather*)
 - First PER session at DAMOP will happen this year with four invited presenters. Randy submitted on behalf of FEd. Session will be pitched at this audience. Thank you Heather!
 4. Vice-Chair Report (*Tim*)
 - We had a successful election! John Stewart, Andrew Heckler, Geraldine Cochran are joining the committee. A good nominating committee was important to this success.
 - This was the first time that we had the elections early enough to have candidates in place before the end of the calendar year. The cycle started at the end of the summer. 696 people voted in the election (16% of FEd members).
 5. Past Chair Report (*Paul*)
 - We had four nominees for FEd Fellow. The key criteria was that the successful nominee had an educational impact beyond their home institution. A regional impact would be fine.
 - The presence of GPER and FOEP may change what FEd Fellows look like.
 - It will be important for GPER and FEd to coordinate on Fellow nominations. FEd had 8 slots for Fellow and typically does not fill them.
 - There was some discussion about the possibility of moving the FEd Fellow nomination to June 1 in 2016.
 - Ted will look into whether nominees can be switched between FEd and GPER during the first two weeks of nominations.
 6. Councilor Report (*Gay*)
 - PhysTEC 3.0, in partnership with AAPT, is planning a new grant proposal with three main initiatives...
 - Faculty are not well prepared to help students prepare for industry careers. We always used to have someone from industry on FEd. We should think about this moving forward.
 - There was concern that there is not direct representation on the Counsel from all APS units. GPER can work through FEd since GPER is not big enough to have their own Counselor. FOEP will likely have their own Counselor by the end of the year since they expect to have at least 2000 members.
 - There was discussion about whether we wanted to push/support the idea creating the April Meeting as an Education focused meeting. One suggestion was that the April meeting be regularly in Washington. This likely means not having it in April, but perhaps earlier in the year. Each meeting could have a well-articulated purpose.

- For next few years, the plans are:
 - Jan 2017 will be APS in DC, this is very close in time to AAPT Winter meeting
 - 2018 ??
 - 2019 No April Meeting, joint APS meeting will be held
 - 2020 another Joint Meeting
7. Newsletter Editor (*Beth*)
 - a. *Report*
 - We thank Beth for getting the Spring Newsletter out!
 - b. *Newsletter Stats*
 - It would be useful to compare our newsletter readership stats to those of other units.
 - Maybe we should reach out to the FEd membership and ask what they would like from the newsletter (and from FEd in general, for that matter).
 8. News from GPER (*Karen Cummings*)
 - We had a discussion about the differences and similarities between GPER and FEd: What is GPER anyway? Can GPER differentiate itself from the FEd. Discussion focused on the main purpose of GPER being for PER researchers to present their work to other PER folks
 - Concern was expressed about how realistic it is to have enough researchers to support both PERC and GPER. However, for many universities there is value to presenting at APS vs. AAPT.
 9. News from FOEP (*Michael Barnett – was not able to attend the meeting, but sent an outline of ideas to Michael Fauerbach that were included with the meeting packet. See Appendix below.*)
 10. Prizes & Awards
 - We have given prizes and awards
 11. News from the Leadership convocation (John & Tim)
 - It was great! This is where the units actually talk to one-another.
 - We are expected to communicate our members needs up to APS leadership. This means that we need to figure out what these needs are.
 - We should consider a focus group at next April meeting to identify what folks want from FEd. We could, for example, invite 20 people and provide them with a meal.
 - Do we know how well FEd is represented in meeting attendance?
 - Let's ask APS if they will find a way to identify Forum and Group membership on name badges. Or, we can just make our own stickers to identify FEd members at meetings.
 12. FEd Bylaws Revision (*Randy*)
 - Proposed revisions have been sent out for comment. No comments were received.
 13. APS Education and Diversity Report (*Ted Hodapp*)
 - PhysTEC is great! A new grant proposal is under preparation.

- Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics is a big and important initiative. University of Chicago (that hosted a conference last year) doubled their number of female applicants to graduate school.
- The Bridge program is going very well. We want to get education researchers to study graduate education. NSF has money to give people who are interested in working on this topic.
- We are doing the national mentoring community. The goal is to pair up a mentor with every underrepresented minority undergraduate physics student in the country. APS is putting significant resources behind this. There will be a conference in October at Florida International.
- The Joint Task Force on Undergraduate Physics Programs has a refocused charge. There will be a report in 2016 - two more in-person meetings and lots of writing.
- In its last meeting the Committee on Education approved the idea of developing some sort of certification for physics programs. This will be a good thing because it focuses on how programs evaluate themselves. This is expected to go to Council in the Fall. It will probably be a 'Best Practices' document. Please remember we have three members of the FEd chair-line on COE, so if you want to know more about this contact any of them.

14. FEd Goals for future (*ALL: ideas on how to increase membership, and participation of members in Forum activities*)

- Open brainstorm and discussion
 - Need to get the word out that students need a year of physics before entering college. How do we let parents, students, counselors and other teachers know this is important. The mechanisms vary state to state, district to district. The FEd can be a source of people who might be interested in advocating in their state.
 - Could offer scholarships that require physics, calculus, chemistry to be eligible
 - Could reach out through Guidance Counselor organizations
 - Teacher preparation: Physics departments do not know what the process is. Information on the process in each state would be useful to have.
 - What would we need to do to increase FEd membership? Why aren't more APS members also members of FEd? What can FEd provide to more people? It is important to remember that most APS members do not attend APS meetings.
 - Something like a mini-workshop might be something that people would find valuable. It could bring people in.
 - Successful graduate programs is a potential topic of interest.
 - Use the voice of FEd to communicate to members about what they should read. Maybe something in the newsletter.
 - How else should we communicate with members beyond the newsletters?
 - Focusing on distilling what is known to an audience that is new to it.

- Action items:
 - Something to put on badges to identify FEd members -
 - Focus sessions at APS meetings - Tim & Charles
 - Focus sessions at regional APS meetings -
 - Develop a marketing strategy: perhaps focused short news items that get pushed out periodically, maybe four per year (how do these do compared with newsletter). Need to work with APS communications department. Sara Connors, or Elizabeth Cook. Randy is going to spearhead the marketing strategy.

Appendix: Outline of Comments from Forum on Outreach and Engaging the Public

Michael Barnett -- April 13, 2015

FOEP is new

FOEP Newsletter -- how often, what form, what content, how advertise

FOEP Website – links, interesting sites, outreach by Forum members, webmaster?

APS Fellows – how to generate nominations, what is the process, Alan Alda last year, APS newsletter article about Alda omitted FOEP

Physics Slam – Organizational problems this year. Possible collaboration depending on details.

Public lecture – Is done jointly with others.

Collaboration with FEd, History of Physics, Graduate Student Forum.

FOEP is allowed a single session unless co-sponsor with others.

AAPT – possible collaboration along with FEd?

Issues with funding agencies discouraging E&O by the scientists they fund.

Survey of FOEP members about what outreach they are doing.

Bylaws revision.
