

**FORUM ON EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Salt Lake City, April 18, 2016
Marriott Park City Room 6:00–10:00 pm**

MINUTES

Attendees

Committee members:

Randy Knight, Chair
Tim Stelzer, Chair Elect
John Stuart, Vice Chair
Michael Fauerbach, Past Chair
Charles Henderson, Secretary/Treasurer
Gay Stewart, Councilor
Heather Lewandowski
Jorge Lopez
Wendy Adams
Andrew Heckler
Geraldine Cochran
Geoff Potvin (via Skype, flight cancelled due to weather)

Friends of the committee:

Carlos Bertulani , Committee on Education
Larry Cain, incoming Vice Chair
Ted Hodapp, APS Liaison
Mary Mogge, AAPT
Rachel Scherr, GPER
Richard Steinberg, newsletter editor (via Skype)

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

1. Chair's welcome and introductions (Randy Knight)
2. Newsletter editor report (Richard Steinberg via Skype)
 - a. Transition process of new editor
 - b. Editorial priorities and directions

Transition is going well. First issue of newsletter (summer 2016) will be focused on the work of Arnold Arons. Newsletter should be ready to go about June 1. Planning for Fall newsletter will begin in summer and continue into August.

Question about who reads the newsletter and why they read it. Richard is interested in this. A discussion ensued about the value of the newsletter to FEd.

The committee recognizes the great work of Beth Lindsey in her role of outgoing newsletter editor.

3. Secretary/Treasurer report (Charles Henderson)
 - a. Membership statistics and trends
 - b. 2016 budget

FEd membership is fairly flat, but at the same time overall APS membership is increasing. Thus, FEd membership as a percentage of APS members is declining.

A discussion began about FEd not attracting graduate students. We are missing out on this demographic and this is perhaps why our member numbers are not keeping up with the increase in overall APS numbers. There are very few cross members of FEd and Forum on Graduate Student Affairs. We should think about partnering with FGSA.

It is pointed out that FEd is also relatively low on early career members.

The 2016 budget had been previously approved (Jan 16 2016) via an email vote. This is to keep the budget decision in line with the calendar year.

4. Vice chair report (John Stewart)
 - a. Elections
 - b. 2016 leadership convocation

The nominating committee sought three candidates for each position based on past tradition. John recommends moving to two candidates for each position. There appeared to be general agreement to this idea.

Attending the leadership convocation is a good opportunity to interact with other Forums. It is a great opportunity for new leaders.

Some ideas that stand out:

- APS can develop handouts and posters for meetings (for a small cost)
- We can register members for FEd in person. We should consider doing this if we have a session that is applicable for a large audience.
- APS staff can be asked to find out data about FEd activities

5. Past chair report (Michael Fauerbach)
 - a. 2016 APS Fellows

Fellow nominations are active for 2 years. The committee reviewed 7 nominations (3 from last year, 4 new ones). Two Fellows emerged: Daniel Claes, Peter Shaffer.

6. Chair-elect report (Tim Stelzer)
 - a. 2016 meetings
 - b. 2015 and 2016 FEd sessions at DAMOP (Heather Lewandowski)

c. Discussion of FEd presence at other divisional meetings

March meeting: 4 invited sessions (includes 1 prize session). Attendance was fairly low at all of the sessions. Maybe 30 or so people at each session.

April meeting: 5 invited sessions (includes 1 prize session).

Things Tim learned. At the April sorters meeting it is important to distinguish between FEd and GPER contributed sessions. This year they were all listed as GPER sessions but should have been either FEd or co-sponsored.

This was the first time FEd sponsored a session at a divisional meeting. The DAMOP session in 2015 was titled “Turning physics students into physicists” and was very well attended. The 2016 DAMOP session planned is “Engaging students in all levels in the process of modeling experiments”.

A discussion ensued. Do we want to continue this at DAMOP? Do we want to do this at other divisional meetings? No decisions were made. We will see how things go at the 2016 DAMOP.

7. Councilor report (Gay Stewart)

Governance changes seem to be going OK.

April meeting has been under review. People want the April meeting in April, but not too close to the end of April. People want the April meeting near Washington DC every other year.

All Forums have the ability to annually nominate 8 Fellows plus 4 alternates. All of the available fellowship slots would be more than the possible number of fellows APS can allow. APS is considering changing this to allow each forum to have one fellow per 1000 members – that would allow FEd to have 5 fellows. This would not affect FEd much since we have typically nominate fewer than 5 fellows.

GPER and FEd want to coordinate deadlines for APS Fellow applicants.

APS journals. APS is concerned about the transition to open access. APS has now hired a publisher. APS has started a fluids journal. PACS identifiers for articles are being replaced by PHISH.

From the perspective of APS, A Jan 1 start date for new FEd EC members would be desirable. This would require a change in FEd bylaws.

8. Reports from and Q/A with guests:

a. GPER (Rachel Scherr)

GPER is going great. First GPER fellows were “crowned” at this meeting. Invited sessions at GPER meetings have so far emphasized publications related to the new focused collections. Sessions were decently attended, with 20-40 people. GPER has launched the “Grand Challenges”

initiative to identify Grand Challenges in PER. Funding is being sought. GPER will take over (from FEd) contributions to the FPER conference in the future. GPER will change fellowship nomination date to coincide with FEd. This will ensure that GPER and FEd have nominees that are the best fit.

c. Committee on Education (Carlos Bertulani)

Distinction between FEd and COE. COE advises the APS Council and on issues related to educational policy. The 12 members have two face-to-face meetings each year. We identify problems related to education and bring these ideas to the attention of APS. For example, we have been working on a project related to best practices in undergraduate physics education. We conducted a survey of physics department chairs and found that chairs wanted some guidance for undergraduate physics programs. COE wants to provide some guidance for undergraduate physics programs before such guidance comes from outside. COE is gathering a task force to work on this issue. A set of recommendations is still a way off.

COE also facilitates interactions between APS members interested in educational policy issues and the APS Office of public affairs.

d. APS Office of Education and Diversity (Ted Hodapp)

- PhysTEC is our big program. Funding is being sought from NSF to help sustain and grow PhysTEC.
- CUWIP is continuing to grow. Next year: 9 conferences in US and 1 in Canada and UK. APS does not run these conferences, but seeks to support the organizers.
- Bridge program continues to go well.
- Graduate Education conference is planned for next year.
- National mentoring community was launched about 1 year ago. A meeting is being planned for next year. The mentoring program is particularly focused on underrepresented minorities.
- Just released a report on LGBT concerns. A Forum on Diversity is being discussed. Concern was expressed that, with a growth in Forums, it may be appropriate to increase the number of forums that each APS member gets for free.
- Joint task force on undergraduate physics programs, chaired by Paula Heron and Laurie McNeil, is coming out with a report in September.

9. FEd interactions with AAPT (Mary Mogge)

- a. AAPT sessions at APS and APS session at AAPT
- b. FEd meeting with AAPT Board at Summer AAPT meeting

Once upon a time FEd used to do a plenary session at the summer AAPT meeting (a science session) and AAPT used to do 2 sessions at the April meeting. This stalled a few years ago mainly due to loss of institutional memory. AAPT would like to redevelop this relationship. There exists a MOU between AAPT and FEd about this relationship. Well-known physicists at local institutions have often been used as speakers at AAPT meetings and do not have travel

costs. The 2017 AAPT meeting is in Cincinnati, OH. FEd should recommend a good speaker. This needs to be done in the Fall for the AAPT Summer meeting.

Usually the AAPT sessions at April APS meetings are organized by particular AAPT committees. Maybe a session on recommendations for undergraduate labs (AAPT Labs committee) would be appropriate.

FEd will meet with the AAPT Board at the Summer AAPT meeting (Sacramento). There will be a dinner meeting Saturday night.

There was general agreement that coordination between FEd and AAPT is important and should be strengthened.

10. Excellence in Physics Education Award (Randy Knight)
 - a. Budget, endowment, and fund raising
 - b. Intent of award
 - c. Promoting/soliciting nominations

Randy discusses history of the award (based on document distributed earlier). An endowment was established with the goal of reaching \$100K. Currently the endowment is \$137K. The annual payout at 4% is \$5.5K.

The award is not endowed at a high enough level to fund travel and other award expenses. Full endowment would be about \$200K. To allow for a \$5K award, certificate, and travel for 3 group members. The current FEd budget adds \$10K to the endowment, bringing it to \$147.

Randy raises several issues that we need to resolve:

- Is this award really primarily for groups? If so, we should give stronger direction to the selection committee. (Motion proposed and seconded) Since the spirit of the award is to emphasize collaborations and many nominations are for individuals we propose changing the committee charge to allow the committee to go back to the nominator in order to change the nomination so that it can be focused on groups. We will communicate with the Prizes and Awards committee to figure out how to do this. (Motion passes unanimously)
- Do we want to leave this award at the April meeting? (Motion proposed and seconded) Yes (Motion passes unanimously)
- How do we get more nominations? One suggestion is to send an email to Fellows and other senior people specifically ask them for nominations.
- What should be our policy on paying for travel for the winner or winners? All travel costs for award winners should be capped by \$2K.
- Do we want to work on increasing the endowment? If so, how? Yes, we would like to. We work with APS to seek contributions and match up to \$10-\$20K from FEd funds. These funds would come from future years.

11. FEd visibility and presence (John Stewart and Tim Stelzer)

- a. Recruiting members
 - We should reach out to the grad student group. Ask them what they need.
 - We should seek to have one session at each meeting that is aimed to attract people beyond the “usual suspects”. This session should be advertised at the meeting and otherwise made visible: flyers, posters in the entry hall and other places around the meeting. We can collect names of people at the session and make it painless for them to join FEd.
 - We want more recognition of our sponsorship from the Diversity and Inclusion Reception. Ted needs to know specifically how we would like to be recognized and is open to other ideas about how to promote FEd.

- b. Focused monthly or bi-monthly emails to members

No one wants more email. This is probably not a good idea.

- c. Boosting attendance at sessions

- d. Trying for more contributed sessions

APS members can give one talk in a technical session, but they can also give a paper in a non-technical session. We could encourage folks to contribute another talk to a FEd session.

12. High school guidance counselors (Michael Fauerbach)

- a. Are they an impediment to students taking physics?
- b. What could/should FEd or APS do?

It is important that all high school students take physics. This is critical for several reasons. For example, many big name schools do not admit students to college if they do not have a serious physics course. This may be a COE issue rather than a FEd one. Ted is not sure how to reach guidance counselors. They do have a professional association, but it is not clear how to best interact with this group.

13. Open discussion of new ideas

Prize for a Faculty Member for Research at an Undergraduate Institute. Information will be sent out via email.

Meeting adjourns at 10:13pm.