

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Forum on Education
Monday, April 15, 2019
Sheraton Denver Downtown, Director's Row H

Present on site: Laurie McNeil, Jerry Feldman, Larry Cain, Noah Finkelstein, Mac Stetzer, Julian Gifford, Beth Lindsey, Ben Dreyfus, Ted Hodapp, Monica Plisch

Present by phone or Zoom: Catherine Crouch, Chuhee Kwon, Adrienne Traxler, Eleanor Close, Laura Henriques, Gordon Ramsey, Jennifer Docktor

(Underlined items need action or continued discussion)

1. Reports

- Past Chair: Larry Cain reported on a number of items addressed over the last year – budget approval now being done by email at beginning of year; the selection of a new editor, Jennifer Docktor; an evaluation letter for Richard Steinberg's work as editor by Beth Lindsey; update of the FEd duty calendar on the website; start of discussion with AAPT about the FEd/AAPT agreements; chair line reappointment of Scott Franklin as FEd representative to the Educational Policy Committee of the Committee on Education; sent info to the APS Prizes and Awards Committee concerning our two awards, which are in good shape; email of thanks from Dawn Franklin of the 2018 GRC on Physics Research and Education for FEd contribution; Larry and Laurie had discussions with Jonathan Reichert and Barbara Wolff-Reichert concerning their award and discussions continue with APS; he will be looking at the FEd website for changes and updates and hopes others will suggest changes; we need nominations from everyone for APS Fellows nominated by FEd to the APS – we have none now.
- 2019 Program Chair – Laurie McNeil reported on the number of FEd invited sessions at the March meeting (5 plus one contributed with one hosted by CSWP and several co-sponsored, with good attendance at sessions) and the April meeting (7 FEd sessions including co-sponsored and one contributed; good attendance at most sessions; two parallel sessions did not have good attendance and need to be avoided). She reported that APS was changing the March meeting invited session allocation algorithm and FEd will go from 4 to 3 sessions; we need to increase membership to get more sessions.
- 2019 Program Chair – Jerry Feldman reported that the program committee starts work this summer; committee includes Mac Stetzer, Eleanor Close, Julian Gifford, Mel Sabella from AAPT, Monica Plisch from APS, James Kakalios from FOEP, plus 3 or 4 others that he will choose.
- 2019 Nominating Chair – Catherine Crouch reported that she had recruited 1 of 2 at-large members: Bethany Wilcox of UC Boulder - and asked for suggestions for the second at-large member; the committee is starting work on nominees.
- Newsletter editor – Jenifer Docktor, as the new editor, introduced herself to everyone and asked for ideas for themes for upcoming newsletters.
- COE – Chair Laura Henriques reported on Committee on Education tasks and activities:

updating COE priorities (last done in 2015); reviewing and providing input on 14 Innovation Fund proposals which listed COE as a potential partner; continuing to grapple with the EP3 project; a subcommittee is working on developing a structure and support system for graduate student/post-doc physics societies; APS Education Policy Committee (EPC) is overseen by COE (Noah Finkelstein reported that APS Office of Public Affairs has new leadership and may be less focused on educational issues – it will be important for FEd, COE, and EPC to be more involved.)

- Councilor – Noah Finkelstein noted that he was councilor for FEd, GPER, and FOEP. He reported increased travel funds for grad students and early career faculty; more support to early career faculty; support for site visits and early career roles on advocacy; the Ethics Report was passed by the Board – part of the report supports ethics in education; APS is considering the creation of a small society-wide annual meeting in connection with congressional visits and the convocation (he has proposed education as a topic for the 2020 meeting).
- APS – Ted Hodapp reported that EP3 had many sections being developed, significant interest, town halls at March and April meetings, draft sections going out, six months into a 5-year grant, and that it is not ABET; Step up 4 Women has had a significant effect so far in two years reaching out to high school teachers to encourage women to study undergraduate physics; IGen (Inclusive Graduate Education Network) is the successor to the Bridge program and involves many science societies; the first Bridge students just graduated; a record number of students (approx. 1960) attended the CUWiP conferences, with Canada and the UK involved, 12 sites for 2020.
- APS – Monica Plisch reported that PhysTEC was in the second year of a five-year grant, with an outgrowth from a second NSF grant concerning recruiting students for teaching careers (Get the Facts Out), one more teacher/year from each department could solve shortage problem; from the Strategic Plan: four areas in education were brought together: Education, Diversity, Public Engagement and Careers – education and Public Engagement are searching for new heads: APS Head of Education and APS Head of Public Engagement.

2. Brief Discussion items

- APS Strategic Plan: thinking of roles for FEd to fit into the new Strategic Plan; suggestions were – 1) more congressional fellows, perhaps in educational policy - FEd and COE could ask EPC to do this, 2) FEd should be proactive in keeping education in the strategic plan initiatives
- Innovation Funds: about 100 submitted – 8 listed FEd, 14 listed GPER with some overlap; review committees were asked to do commentary only; 8-10 will do full proposal with a smaller number funded; Can FEd take advantage of these funds by seeding ideas?; We need a mechanism to review these proposals every year in the future – solicit people at first of year and develop review criteria.
- International Engagement: as part of strategic Plan all units are asked to designate a member of their ExComm as the "International Officer" to strengthen linkages with international partners. Suggested that FEd partner with COE, GPER, FIP, international authors in PRPER to make this happen. Jerry and Noah say they will handle this.
- APS Engage: how do we use this effectively? It was noted that the interface needs a lot of work.

- Announcement - There is an effort coming out of the APS Committee on Education to foster the establishment Graduate Student and Postdoc Societies in physics departments, similar to (but separate from) SPS.
- Problem: The new journal *Physical Review Research*, whose scope is “the full spectrum of research topics of interest to the physics community... to broadly disseminate high-quality research from all of physics, the physical sciences, and interdisciplinary areas to a global audience,” has stated that they will publish papers in any area of physics **except** physics education research. The Committee on Education has a subcommittee dealing with this issue to let the journal know this is not good policy.

3. Major Discussion items

- Budget matters: Budget was approved by email in January to track with the calendar year. Questions to be considered – 1) are we spending the right amounts on the right items? Agreement that we should continue subsidizing speakers. Question was asked – is it possible to make FEd sessions have more public access?
- Membership matters: membership is falling, which affects the number of March meeting sessions, etc. What can we do to increase membership? Need to know what the value added is to encourage membership. Need more resources at the table (charge to membership committee) – handouts, brochures with bullet points for FEd, requests for “what is important to you?”, resources on teaching, FEd newsletters.
Other comments – growth in APS Membership mostly in students – find out issues that are important; have an interaction in the newsletter about what is important to members; be at New Faculty Workshop with info and a sign-up sheet; be at Department Chairs Conference with info and a sign-up sheet; partner with EP3 when they do department reviews; have your own colleagues sign up.
Laurie should email the flyer to the ExComm.
- FEd/AAPT collaboration: FEd has two agreements with AAPT, one concerning joint sessions at the April APS and summer AAPT meetings and one having to do with communication between the three FEd APS/AAPT members-at-large and the AAPT Past President concerning cooperation between FEd and AAPT. Both are roughly ten years old and need to be revisited. Larry Cain and Gordon Ramsey began a discussion of these documents at the April meeting last year. These are informal agreements between FEd and AAPT and are not recognized at the APS Council level.
 - a. Invited sessions at APS April meeting – Conversations need to occur between the FEd program chair and AAPT area person about topics and speakers. These sessions are typically as well attended as other FEd sessions. It helps if the AAPT person is an APS member as well and has been to an APS meeting.
We could get a high-profile speaker for these sessions – suggestions were Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Eric Mazur, recent Millikan or Oersted winners, a local person with a high profile.
Could FEd and AAPT organize a plenary session for the APS meeting?
 - b. General cooperation - the three FEd APS/AAPT members-at-large and the AAPT Past President are tasked with communicating about possible FEd/AAPT joint undertakings. The liaison does not work if the AAPT Past President is not an APS member. The current document does have a structure, but it is not working currently. We should make this more flexible so that the connection is a member of the AAPT presidential line or any member of the Board.
What are the goals of this partnership and how do we fulfill them?

What is the mechanism for this communication?

What projects might be beneficial to both groups – suggestions: Increasing membership, do focus groups or town halls at meetings about how to help members, advocacy for education, innovation fund ideas.

The AAPT board will be considering a strategic Plan at its next meeting and will discuss this. Discussion will continue between the two groups in the future.