



Forum on Education

American Physical Society

Executive Committee Meeting
August 7, 2005, University Marriott, Salt Lake City, UT
Minutes and Notes by Ramon Lopez & Bruce Mason

Voting Members Present: Karen Cummings, Paula Heron, Ramon Lopez, Ernie Malamud, Bruce Mason, Peggy McMahan, David Meltzer, Greg Snow, Gay Stewart

Voting Members Absent: David Haase, Lawrence Woolf, Peter Zimmerman

Non-voting Members Present: Ken Heller (AAPT, for Dick Petersen), Ted Hodapp (APS), Tom Rossing (Newsletter Editor)

Non-voting Members Absent: Joe Redish (CoE)

Guests: Jack Hehn (AIP)

Chair Ramon Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:04 am..

Approval of Minutes: Greg Snow asked for clarification about PRST-PER composition outsourcing. Minutes for the April 17th meeting were accepted unanimously. Ernie was thanked for his production of these minutes and for his long and outstanding service to the Forum.

Report on Newsletter (Ernie): A report on the status of the Forum Newsletter was presented, along with questions regarding its format, content, and impact. The following comments and recommendations were made:

- Information regarding readership needs to be collected. Efforts to do this might include a survey of Forum members and tracking of page views on the newsletter. Suggested survey questions include: who is reading the newsletter, what are readers looking for, who wants paper copies, and why authors are writing for the newsletter.
- The APS is changing its web pages and the impact of these changes on the newsletter need to be explored.
- The formatting of the newsletter should help users find articles. Suggested changes include an HTML Table of Contents, metadata to help discovery by search engines, and discussion boards/blogs to add interactivity.

Karen will draft a survey regarding the Newsletter for consideration by the Executive Committee.

Ernie will work with Joann on a Word template for articles to simplify creation of the newsletter. Ernie, Ramon, Bruce, and Joann will work on tracking traffic, the APS web changes, search engines, and blogs.

Fall Newsletter: Karen Editor. Featured theme - Frontiers in Physics Education Conference, Rachel Scherr, Section Editor. Browsing the Journals, Tom, Teacher Prep, and Letter from the Chair sections will be included.

Spring Newsletter: Karen Editor. Featured theme – Graduate Education. Suggested contributions: Graduate task force, FGSA to be contacted, Jack and Roman will produce a resource list, and an article on GK-12.

APS & AAPT Meeting Sessions (Peggy): The planned sessions for the March and April meetings were discussed.

- Two invited sessions for March, with Ted organizing.
- Joint session for March with FPS on changes over last decade in physics departments in climate for women, minorities, students.
- Joint sessions in April, with FPS on evolution and with DNP on particle physics.

Karen/David will arrange PER sessions for the April meeting.

Ramon and Gay will organize session “New models for graduate education” for April meeting.

Summer 2006 AAPT meeting session will be with the DNP and organized by Peggy. Perhaps have both invited and contributed sessions, with the invited session the quality of a Plenary.

Request for Mini-grant (Peggy): The request is to fund a physics fun day as a WYP event at the DNP meeting in Maui.

Peggy will write a short report for the Newsletter.

Report from the APS (Ted): The following items from the APS were discussed:

- The APS name change to the American Physics Society will be made.
- A new Middle School program will be started over the next year. This will be based on the work by Jessica Clark on WYP.
- A means to provide a PER abstract service, such as through the ADS ABS astronomy abstract service (<http://adswww.harvard.edu/>), was discussed. The issues of rights to display and charges for abstracts need to be resolved.
- The role of the councilor on the Forum Executive Committee is very important because this person is the liaison with the APS council.
- Better sharing of information between the Forum and the AAPT is needed. Ideas discussed included links between websites, informational flyers at events, and an article by the AAPT executive office, perhaps on AAPT meetings, in the Forum Newsletter.

Ken will investigate the questions of abstract charges with the AAPT. This also needs to be discussed with the AIP and APS.

Bruce will work with the AAPT to link to the Forum Newsletter and to get an AAPT flyer to have available at Forum events at APS meetings.

Teacher Preparation (Ted):

- The government has created a new web Title II website (www.title2.org) with teacher preparation resources and exemplary programs.
- There is a need to promote and expand the PhysTEC teacher preparation meeting in Arkansas March 23 – 26. It was recommended that the attendance be capped.
- The Final PhysTEC grant increment has been received and is available for the next two years. The goal is to provide a sustainable Teacher Preparation structure and publish best practices.

Treasurer's Report (Bruce):

Item	Rev/Exp	Total	Balance
Balance Jan 1, 2005		40,313.51	40,313.51
Revenue			
Dues	15,598.00		
Meetings	0.00		
Investment Income	1,699.26		
Revenue		17,297.26	57,610.77
Meeting Expenses			
April A/V	(693.81)		
April Reception & Food	(3,275.26)		
Fee Waivers	(5,400.00)		
Travel (incl Sorters)	(3,423.77)		
Meeting Expenses		(12,792.84)	44,817.93
Supplies/Postage/Phone		(251.70)	44,566.23
Services			
Morrison (Newsletter Ad)	(75.00)		
Pahola (Hodapp)	(2,500.00)		
Services		(2,575.00)	41,991.23
Excellence in Teaching Award		(7,268.20)	34,723.03
Balance July 1, 2005			34,723.03
Estimates through Dec 2005			
Estimated Income			
Meeting Revenues		1,000.00	
Interest Income		1,000.00	
Estimated Expenses			
Excellence in Teaching Award (Maximum)		(15,731.80)	
Phys Rev - ST		(5,000.00)	
PER Foundations & Frontiers		(3,000.00)	

AAPT Travel (FEd)		(1,200.00)	
AAPT Travel (Plenary)		(1,200.00)	
AAPT Plenary Materials		(1,225.00)	
Mini-Grants (Maximum)		(4,000.00)	
Projected (Minimum) Balance			5,366.23

There was general agreement to continue to provide support for Forum sessions at the AAPT Plenary, including refreshments.

A question about fee waivers was asked. The meeting Fee Waivers are for new Forum fellows.

Forum Bylaws Revisions (Ramon):

- To be consistent with APS rules, bylaws should state that inactive members of the Executive Committee (missing two consecutive meetings) can be removed. This will be voted upon at the next meeting. Removal is not automatic. The Councilor is under the same rules.
- Bylaws can be changed at times other than official Forum meetings through electronic vote.

Peggy will revise the election rules to reflect actual practice.

Foundations and Frontiers in PER and PERC Conferences (Paula): Holding two different PER conferences within a week of each other raised some questions about the future directions of these conferences.

- The Foundations and Frontiers conference is full, with a distinguished speaker list. The support of the Forum for this conference is appreciated. This will go mostly to help support the travel of graduate students.
- It is not yet determined if this will be a regular conference. There are examples such as the Gordon conference in Chemistry Education Research.
- There are some questions about the relation between the PERC conference and the Foundations conference. The Foundations conference is focused on PER researchers, where the PERC includes quite a few “avid consumers” of PER results.
- There have been discussions about moving the PERC conference, perhaps to APS meetings, to broaden the audience. The feeling of some members of the Executive Committee was that this would not be well received by the PER community.

David or Karen will take a straw poll at the Research in Physics Education committee meeting at this AAPT meeting about moving the PERC.

Excellence in Teaching Awards (Ernie): There is concern that these funds are not growing fast enough to be able to fund the award in the near future. Ways to generate donations were discussed.

- The number of people pledging is down to almost zero. The “Honor a Teacher” incentive hasn’t worked as well as is hoped.
- We need to promote the award at all Forum conference sessions. This has brought in pledges in the past. This information should be available at regional APS meetings as

well. It might be time for another article or information in the APS News, perhaps stories about the honored teachers.

- Corporate funding has not been very high. We need to work with the APS development office to find and persuade this funding. There has been little response from the development office. There is competition for this funding and the efforts of the development office.
- Perhaps use “naming rights” for the award to attract a big donor.
- The end of the year might be a good time for approaching large donors, for tax purposes.
- It was recommended that the letter sent to members and the information on the Forum web site be reviewed to make sure it is clear.

Ted offered to have a conference call with Darlene in the Development office regarding this award.

Old Business:

Statement of Support for Funding of Physics Education Research:

- There is a need to draft a message for Congress supporting funding of science education research. This funding is under a great deal of pressure.
- It was suggest that the Forum encourage the APS Council to approve a statement supporting this funding. This might be difficult because of APS members who feel that this reduces funds for traditional physics research. The statement should include that this funding should not be at the expense of physics research programs. The Physics Policy Committee is the proper forum for such an official message.
- The Forum should also help draft messages that individual voters can take to their representatives. The APS Washington Office can help individuals with this effort.
- The goal will be to have an impact on the 2007 budget.

Greg (Paula?) will work on drafting a document of support for this funding priority.

New Business:

Workshop at the Spring APS Meeting: Wolfgang Christian would like to hold a workshop session at the Spring APS meeting on Open Source Physics. This request was approved.

PRST-PER Page Charges (Paula): There have been concerns expressed as to how the pages charges for the Physical Review Special Topics journal in PER will be managed.

- Because part of these charges will be offset with Forum funds, there were questions as to whether the Executive Committee should have input into how this is being done.
- There is a good editorial board for the journal. However, the support for page charges is not part of the editorial process.
- It would be useful to get some statement about how this support will be distributed.

Next Meetings:

The next Forum Executive Committee Meeting will be a teleconference in the Fall.

The next face-to-face Forum Executive Committee Meeting will be at the APS March Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.