



# Forum on Education

American Physical Society

**Executive Committee Meeting  
December 12, 2005, Teleconference  
Minutes and Notes by Bruce Mason**

***Voting Members Present:*** Karen Cummings, David Haase, Paula Heron, Ramon Lopez, Ernie Malamud, Bruce Mason, Peggy McMahan, David Meltzer, Greg Snow, Lawrence Woolf

***Voting Members Absent:*** Gay Stewart, Peter Zimmerman

***Non-voting Members Present:*** Ted Hodapp (APS), Tom Rossing (Newsletter Editor)

***Chair Ramon Lopez called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. ET***

**Approval of Minutes:** It was noted that the header on the pages had an incorrect date. Minutes for the August 6 meeting were accepted unanimously, with this change.

**APS Congressional Relations (Ted) –**

Science funding is doing somewhat better in Congress. The APS is stressing efforts to encourage members to contact Congress. Physics education funding is a part of this message although there is resistance from some APS members. To help support this message, the chair of the Committee on Education is going to be on the Physics Policy Committee. This is a one year trial. The FED should also consider recommending names for PPC members who will support physics education in congressional outreach efforts.

Paula and Karen asked about the antagonism towards including education in the message to Congress. Ted stated this was mostly worry that this would dilute the message and take money away from research. Bert Richter is supportive and Mike Lubell is working to support this message.

Ramon reported that the Committee on Education is working on this issue. He recommended that the National Academy report “A Gathering Storm” be used to inform people about the issues behind greater support of education.

Efforts that the FED can take include making this a regular feature in the Newsletter and urging FED members to be part of letter writing and Congressional visits. It was also suggested that the AAPT Executive Board be approached about Congressional outreach efforts.

**Status of March/April Meetings (Peggy) –**

The invited session on Teacher Preparation is set for the March meeting. There are also jointly sponsored sessions on evolution, the history of outreach, and the status of women and graduate students.

There was a discussion on arranging focused sessions at meetings. This will raise the profile of these sessions. These sessions require that a collection of at least seven contributed talks be submitted and that the FEd sorter be aware of the effort so that he or she can create the session. Karen, Paula, and David are interested in doing this for the April meeting. It was suggested that the April meeting is a better candidate because there are more time slots available.

Ted would like to be made aware of meeting plans of the FEd.

April sessions are on graduate education, teacher preparation, and large enrollment classes. Suggestions were made to fill speaker slots.

Peggy will be working on the sorting for both meetings in December and January.

The FEd Executive Committee Meeting and Business Meeting/Reception will be held at the March meeting. Peggy will arrange times once the meeting schedule is set.

**Foundations in PER Conference** (Paula, Karen, David) –

This conference was a great success. It was a good combination of new and established researchers. 60 people attended. There are suggestions to do this again in 2007.

Working groups were created on specific topics. They have created short reports. Information from the conference will be included in the upcoming (Fall) newsletter.

The FEd support was used to pay for half of the registration fees for graduate students.

**Excellence in Physics Education Award** (Ernie) –

Current status of the award funding: \$79,099 total is in the fund including donations and the FEd match, with \$4,218 left in FEd matching funds. We need to keep the word out to continue attracting contributions. The APS has been working with the committee to attract corporate giving. The California Section has donated. Perhaps other units will be willing to support this. The goal is to have the first award in 2007.

Not many contributors have taken advantage of the “Honor a Teacher” option for contributions over \$100. There are 28 honored. There should be an effort to include these in APS News and/or the Newsletter.

**Treasurer’s Report** (Bruce) –

The following report on the FEd budget was provided:

**APS Forum on Education Treasurer's report  
Jan 2005 - Oct 2005**

Item	Rev/Exp	Total	Balance	2004
<b>Balance Jan 1, 2005</b>		40,313.51	40,313.51	37,674.88
Revenue				
Dues	15,598.00			
Meetings	2,064.00			

Investment Income	2,389.13			
<b>Revenue</b>		20,051.13	60,364.64	20,817.84
Meeting Expenses				
April A/V	(693.81)			
April Reception & Food	(3,275.26)			
Fee Waivers	(5,400.00)			
April Travel (Malamud, Poston, Bresnahan)	(2,993.17)			
Sorting Travel (Norris)	(430.60)			
AAPT Session CD's	(1,189.76)			
AAPT Invited Speaker Travel	(1,078.39)			
AAPT FED Meeting	(371.57)			
AAPT FED Travel (Lopez, Malamud, Rossing)	(1,519.84)			
<b>Meeting Expenses</b>		(16,952.40)	43,412.24	
<b>Mini-Grant Norris</b>		(500.00)		
<b>PER Foundations Conference</b>		(3,000.00)		
<b>Supplies/Postage/Phone</b>		(262.25)	39,649.99	
<b>Printing Lectra Media</b>		(508.74)		
Services				
Morrison (Newsletter Ad)	(75.00)			
Pahola (Hodapp)	(2,500.00)			
<b>Services</b>		(2,575.00)	36,566.25	
<b>Excellence in Teaching Award</b>		(18,490.60)	18,075.65	
<b>Balance Nov 1, 2005</b>			18,075.65	41,035.72
<b>Outstanding Expenses</b>				
Greg Snow Mini Grant		(500.00)		
Wolfgang Christian Mini Grant		(500.00)		
Sorting Travel		(500.00)		
<b>Projected Balance</b>			16,575.65	

A mini-grant request from Greg Snow was approved (although that wasn't really necessary). This is to support the travel of a high school teacher to present a paper at a national meeting.

It was recommended that all mini-grants should be publicized in the Newsletter, and reports of the activities funded be included. Peggy's report on the "Physics Fun Day" at the DNP conference was recommended as an example.

David asked about proposing mini-grant support for thermodynamics workshops at an APS High School Teachers' day. Ramon stated that HS Teachers' days are already funded and mini-grants are for efforts that would not otherwise have support.

**Newletters (Karen) –**

The Fall newsletter is being completed and there will need to be a quick approval to get it completed. The Spring newsletter is accepting contributions. The suggested topic is “Perspectives in Undergraduate and Graduate Education”, including innovations in graduate education and REUs.

Ernie suggested that the Forum on Graduate Student Affairs be contacted to contribute. This might also help jumpstart some of their activities.

Peggy suggested that the education efforts of the division sponsoring the AAPT summer session be highlighted. This could help promote that session and bring in education and outreach information from the different topical areas. Nuclear Physics is sponsoring this session this year.

It was also suggested that information about education and outreach from other professional societies, national labs, and industries be solicited for the Newsletter. Peggy pointed out the problem that education and outreach efforts were often not done by the research scientists. Ramon suggested that the Newsletter highlight the efforts of APS members that are not receiving a lot of funds to do education and outreach. Quarknet and the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab were suggested as examples of outreach efforts that could be highlighted in the Newsletter.

Ernie asked about the format for the Newsletter. Karen said it works.

**Summer AAPT Meeting (Peggy) –**

The DNP will host a Plenary Session at the summer AAPT meeting. This is the week of July 22 in Syracuse. It was requested that the FEd organize a reception along with the session. The session will be advertised as the contributions of Hans Bethe to science. It is hoped this will attract local teachers.

Tom pointed out that Hans Bethe’s contributions to education are not being recognized, including the fact that he received the Oersted medal.

**Other Business –**

**Bylaws –**

Peggy asked about updating the FEd bylaws in time for the March meeting.

**Nominations –**

Nominations for new Executive Committee members needs to gathered. Recommendations from the APS and AAPT are needed.

**Surveys –**

Karen and Ted are working on a survey about teacher licensure.

Ernie suggested that a survey on the Newsletter is needed. These surveys should be separate. He has gathered information about what pages are downloaded, but more information is needed about who is reading the articles and why. There were suggestions that more interactive features (threaded discussions, blogs, links) be added to the online Newsletter.

AAPT Summer Meeting –

Greg is arranging an invited session on cosmic ray research. This session will include partnerships between Teachers and Researchers.

Convocation –

Peggy and Bruce will attend the 2006 APS Units Convocation.

Research and Education –

Tom suggested that past APS award recipients for research at undergraduate institutions would be good to have write articles for the Newsletter. They also might be good to participate in FEd sessions at meetings. They could address the question of changes in the way physics is taught, and their impact.

Ramon recommended a study of graduate education in physics. Perhaps use some sort of anonymous discussion or collection of information from students would be in order.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 ET