



**Forum on Education Executive Committee Teleconference  
Monday, May 12, 2008**

***Voting Members Present:*** Peter Collings, David Haase, Sam Lightner, Ernie Malamud, Bruce Mason, Mel Sabella, John Thompson, Stamatis Vokos, Larry Woolf, Peter Zimmerman

***Non-voting Members Present:*** Ted Hodapp, Tom Rossing  
Ernie Malamud called the meeting to order at 11:05 am CT

**Fellowship Committee: David Haase**

The Executive Committee approved the recommendation of the following members to the Fellowship Committee: Paula Heron, Bruce Sherwood, Bruce Mathis.

**FEd Newsletter Issues: Ernie Malamud**

This was a wide-ranging discussion of the FEd newsletter, stimulated in part by a survey of the forum membership. The results of this discussion are summarized below.

**Purpose** – The FEd bylaws state that the newsletter is meant to convey the annual report of the chair, and provide a place for letters and comments by forum members. Currently the newsletter is a mixture of news and articles, making it something between a journal and a newsletter. Articles should be general interest articles and generally not on teaching methods.

Currently the newsletter is not a discussion forum with continuing dialog. The survey did not indicate a significant interest in this. There are existing email lists for such discussions. Perhaps the newsletter should connect to or use these lists in some way.

Some of the newsletters will have themes, decided by the editor with suggestions and approval of the Executive Committee. Some newsletters will not have themes.

**Format** – The newsletter survey reported some issues with the electronic format, particularly among older readers. There was a discussion of the need to shorten the articles, either by requesting (or requiring) it of authors, to improve readability. There was no consensus that this is needed.

There was a suggestion that the table of contents, with links to articles, be sent out in the email announcement of the newsletter. Bruce will contact the APS and determine the possibility of doing this.

We should do more to solicit news items, including requesting them in the newsletter and on the FEd web site. This should also be included in the announcement emails for the newsletters.

It was suggested that the summer newsletter continue to contain reports on and links to FEd invited talks at the March and April meetings.

**Readership** – Readers report reading 1 to 4 articles in each newsletter. This is probably similar to most journals or magazines.

**Distribution** – It was agreed that the newsletter would continue to be distributed electronically, and that paper copies should be produced and distributed at APS, AAPT, and other relevant meetings. Printing cost for the paper copies at recent meetings has not been a problem. These should be high quality and available for general distribution.

The FEd should have another method of advertising the newsletter, such as a one-page flyer on the Forum for distribution at meetings.

**Teacher Preparation Section** – The Teacher Prep section is independent of the rest of the newsletter, with John Stewart as editor. It was suggested that the two editors work more closely together on timelines and content themes.

The Teacher Prep articles tend to be more scholarly. They also tend to be longer than many of the regular articles. There were no concerns expressed.

It was suggested that the Teacher Prep section could have more news and reports from PTEC events and PhysTEC sites.

**Editors** – The current organization of having multiple editors is different from the organization set in the FEd bylaws. These state that the Executive Committee is to elect an editor for terms of three years.

There was some discussion of having members of the Executive Committee be editors to distribute the load and bring in broad perspectives. It was felt that not everyone has that skill, and also because of the learning curve it is probably more efficient to have fewer people working on this. We should continue to solicit editors.

**Process** – It is important to have strict deadlines for the newsletters so that they can be used at meetings. The Spring newsletter should be available for the March (perhaps) and April (certainly) meetings. The Summer newsletter should be available for the summer AAPT meeting.

### **Search for New APS Executive Officer: Ted Hodapp**

Arthur Bienenstock is chairing the search committee. The FEd might want to get involved. The search for candidates will be in the Fall and the replacement start in April.

### **2009 Program Committee: Peter Collings**

9 people were asked, 8 have accepted. Teleconferences will be occurring soon with the schedule decided over the summer. Any member of the Executive Committee should give suggestions.

### **Promotional Materials:**

The FEd should create a 1 page color flyer to promote the forum. For example, this could be distributed at the Gordon Research Conference, particularly since we are sponsoring it.

The FEd web page needs to be made more interesting. We could solicit a web master, who does not have to be on the Executive Committee. The resources page in particular needs to be updated and made current. Bruce requested input. We could also solicit photos of FEd events, such as the Awards session.

### **Excellence in Education: Ernie Malamud**

1<sup>st</sup> year was a large group. This year Lillian McDermott was concerned about the citation stating the recipients as "representing" a group. We might want to work with the award committee on the award citation. APS treats award winner different from the representative of a group as an award winner, including pictures in the award announcement and the number of certificates presented. We need to work with the awards committee to make sure this issue is handled properly.

In the case of the current award, the award reflected the historical work of the Washington Group, but three individuals were named. The award wording and presentation need to be consistent. It is also unusual to have three authors on an invited talk.

Ernie and Peter Zimmerman will follow up on this.

### **Other Business:**

The next FEd meeting will be at the April meeting.

There was a suggestion that this be generally true because the FEd has a higher profile at the April meeting. This will certainly be true in 2010 when the April (February) meeting will be joint with the AAPT.

The meeting was adjourned 12:10 ET.