



Forum on Education

American Physical Society

APS Forum on Education Teleconference Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Voting Members Present: Peter Collings, Noah Finkelstein, David Haase, Ernie Malamud, Bruce Mason, Mel Sabella, John Thompson, Larry Woolf, Peter Zimmerman

Non-Voting Members Present: Jack Hehn, Ted Hodapp, Harvey Leff

Meeting called to order: 10:05 CT

The minutes from the April 14 2008 Executive Committee meeting and May 12, 2008 Executive Committee teleconference were approved.

REPORTS

Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Bruce Mason

The Treasurer's Report is attached at the bottom of the Minutes.

There was a discussion of the funds in the Excellence in Education Award account, currently at \$115,000. A main concern was if this was enough to fund the award and travel costs for the awardees. It was suggested that the FEd get in touch with the APS Development Office and discuss further fund raising efforts to increase the endowment. Perhaps the award could be raised to \$10k as well.

Noah asked about support for conferences. This has a lower priority than general APS meetings, but we will support these efforts if money is available. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Peter Collings noted that there have not been requests for support from the FEd invited speakers at the 2009 March and April meetings.

Report on Nominations/Election: Larry Woolf

There is a full slate of candidates: 2 for Vice Chair, 2 for APS At Large, 3 for APS/AAPT. He might try to get 3 candidates for both the at large slates.

Ernie suggested we try to find more candidates from industry, informal science, and national labs.

Larry asked for suggestions because there were not nominations from these areas. The suggestions were James Nguyen, a former FEd member, and John Potts, retired from 3M.

Larry noted that there is a postdoc candidate. This represents a new set of people and career stages.

Peter suggested we use the sessions at meetings to recruit candidates and we recruit people from FIAP.

Ernie thanked Larry for his work.

Report on March and April Sessions: Peter Collings

March – There will be 5 invited sessions with 3 of them joint with another Forum/Division. There will be three focus sessions with one of them joint. The FEd is also sponsoring one workshop.

April – There will be six invited sessions with two of them joint. There will be two focus sessions. One of the invited sessions is still uncertain. This is the full complement of FEd sessions. The Teaching Physics of Energy session is a question. It was split into two sessions and the second is questionable.

We need to attract attendees if possible. Emails will be sent out before the meetings to remind FEd members of our sessions.

A Focused Session consists of one invited talk and requests for contributed papers, often by the organizer. It is important to get enough contributions to fill out the session. The deadline for March abstracts is Nov. 21.

NEWSLETTERS

Bruce reported on the status of the Fall Newsletter. He received the initial papers in October and got them to the APS for formatting in early November. When ready, he will send out an email with a table of contents and links.

David reported on the status of the Spring 09 newsletter. He has a tentative Table of Contents and reports from Ernie (From the Chair) and Peter Collings (Programs). There are 8 or 9 articles plus the Teacher Prep section. Articles are due by Jan 5 with the goal of having the newsletter ready for the March meeting. An article about outreach to Middle School was suggested. Rebecca Thompson-Flagg should be able to do this. It was suggested that the newsletter include advertising for the March & April sessions. Peter is going to write this including a list of speakers, titles, and perhaps session abstracts.

Tom Rossing will not do the Browsing section any longer. David might write a Browsing section for Spring. This may be a way to adjust the length of the

newsletter. David is asking for 800 – 1000 word articles and can use the Browsing to add to the newsletter as needed.

In the past there were concerns about the Teacher Prep section. Tom was not pleased with the articles and felt the editor had no control over it. This was discussed in May, and there was no consensus on shortening articles or removing the Teacher Prep section. David noted that this section will be less than ¼ of the Spring newsletter. The FEd editor should work with the Teacher Prep editor and can make the final decision on all articles.

It was suggested that the Teacher Prep Section include announcements and news items. Ted thinks this can be done, but sees a potential problem because the timing of the publication of the newsletter is uncertain. For example, the newsletter must come out before the March Meeting to have announcements of the PTEC meeting in Pittsburgh.

Request from APS for an Editorial Review Board: Ernie Malamud

APS divisions received a memo from Ken Cole regarding two policy items from the Council.

The first policy is that, though newsletters are encouraged, they need to specifically state that articles are opinion pieces of the authors. They should not be considered policy or opinion of the APS and are not peer refereed. This has been done for the Fall. We might want to control the format of these statements for both the full version (pdf) of the newsletter and the online version. No concerns were expressed about this policy.

The second policy was a request that each unit appoint an editorial board to oversee newsletters. Judy Franz wants these boards not to approve each newsletter but for oversight. This group should report to the executive Committee each year.

Ernie suggested that these be people not on the FEd Ex Comm but who are familiar with the FEd. He will ask past chairs, Wolfgang, Ramon, and Peggy. This addition should be reported in the Spring Newsletter.

Recruiting FEd newsletter editors: Ernie Malamud

Ernie suggested that we need new editors. Ernie will do the summer newsletter, but we need to find more people. Originally the newsletter editors were three non-voting FEd Executive Committee members. Now it seems that the voting members are editing, which is not as good. Getting non-voting members as editors will broaden the volunteer base. Travel may be used as an inducement. We all need to recruit newsletter editors. Editors, such as Tom Rossing, have participated in the Executive Committee meetings, and have been very valuable.

There was a discussion of the experience and interests necessary for a good editor. They should be able edit, solicit and communicate with authors, and pull together ideas for articles and themes for newsletters. We need names for the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 newsletters.

Peter Zimmerman asked about membership of the editorial board. There was a Physics & Society newsletter that had to be stopped before it was published. Ernie said that there have been no problems with the FEd, and he will pursue this with Judy.

MEETINGS

Convocation:

Ken Cole announced the APS Unit Convocation, Sat. Feb. 28, 2009, at the ACP. The APS will pay for up to three forum officers. If the election can be done it time, it would be good to have the new Vice Chair attend. We will try to have the election done by the end of January. Ernie will email Ken to say that Bruce, Larry, and if possible the new Vice Chair will attend.

AAPT Plenary:

There will be a Joint FEd/DPP Plenary session at the AAPT Summer meeting, July 25-29, in Ann Arbor. This is a continuation of a series, with sponsorship from DPB, DAMOP, and DPF. The session has morphed into a Plenary Session.

Peter Collings has been in contact with the DPP and AAPT people. He has started working with David Cook. It is necessary to organize this soon because the AAPT planning for meetings is early. Harvey will work to make sure this happens as well.

The FEd may put in some money for a reception and take away materials. Harvey noted that the AAPT didn't have much input into the program for the Plenary. The DPP needs to get this done.

Joint Executive Committee Meeting, AAPT/FED:

There was a suggestion that the FEd Executive Committee members meet again with the AAPT Board, if possible, in Ann Arbor.

APS/AAPT Joint Meeting 2010:

The possibilities for joint FEd/AAPT sessions at the APS/AAPT Meeting, Feb. 12-16 2010, DC were discussed. The AAPT will be planning this a year in advance, much earlier than the FEd. It is uncertain how joint sessions might be organized.

David noted that at the Greensboro AAPT meeting it was stressed that this is a joint meeting with the APS, not just the FEd. We're just one division involved.

If session allocations are the same, FEd will have 5 invited sessions, plus more if sponsored jointly. The question is how this will count if held jointly with an AAPT committee.

Mel noted that the NSBP and NSHP plan to meet at about the same time. Will these meetings connect and overlap? Can the FEd help bring together everything? There are concerns about these meetings running together and interfering. Can we bring in membership of all organizations? Noah suggested sessions on issues in education with at-risk groups.

Larry will be program chair for this meeting and will pursue plans. Organization of the meeting must occur much earlier than normal.

FEd Executive Committee Meetings:

We will schedule a FEd Executive Committee teleconference for late winter/early spring 2009.

The annual (in-person) FEd Executive Committee Meeting will occur at the Denver meeting. Tentatively this will be on Sunday, May 3 over lunch, perhaps 11:30 – 2:00.

The annual FEd Business Meeting and Reception will also be in Denver. This is not yet scheduled. This may be Saturday evening, the day before the Excellence in Education award. Sunday evening the APS is having their awards session.

DISCUSSIONS

FEd/PhysicsQuest Middle School Project: Ernie Malamud

The FEd discussed the PhysicsQuest project with Judy Franz at the last April meeting. These are activity kits on physics topics that go to middle school teachers. It was suggested that the FEd make connections between FEd members and teachers through this activity. Ernie worked with Becky Thompson-Flagg, Director of Outreach, looking for members to do this. Out of 12 letters sent out there was only one response. This will require more letters and phone calls.

The physicists are not going into the classroom, but are to be a resource for the teachers.

FEd Member Survey:

This item was tabled. Stamatis had some thoughts on the survey. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Peter Zimmerman noted that the APS Council meets this weekend and he needs to know if there are any issues that the FEd needs to bring up. This is the last FEd meeting for Peter. He thanked the FEd members for their encouragement. Ernie thanked Peter for eight years of service.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:12 am CT

Item		Rev/Exp Total	Balance
Balance Jan 1, 2008		11,880.24	11,880.24
Projected Revenue			
Dues	19,408.00		
Meeting Revenue, March	1,254.00		
Meeting Revenue, April	1,414.00		
Investment Income	1,125.53		
Revenue		23,201.53	35,081.77
Meeting Expenses			
Fee Waivers	(2,425.00)		
Reception	(1,735.33)		
A/V	(150.00)		
Committee Meal	(699.84)		
		(5,010.17)	
FEd Exec Comm. Travel			
Collings	(792.97)		
Haase	(831.53)		
Lightner	(571.50)		
Mason	(508.40)		
Meltzer	(1,477.76)		
Rossing	(750.90)		
		(4,933.06)	
Program/Sorting Travel		(272.80)	
Gordon Conference		(3,000.00)	
Supplies		(50.00)	
Postage		(68.80)	
Phone		(497.35)	
Newsletter Printing			
Haase, Fall 2007	(91.27)		
Electra, Spring 2008	(234.99)		
Malamud, Summer 2008	(228.55)		
Popkin, Summer 2008	(124.95)		
		(679.76)	
Total Expenses		(14,511.94)	
Balance			20,569.83