



# Forum on Education

American Physical Society

## Forum on Education Executive Committee Teleconference Tuesday, Nov. 16. 2:00 – 3:00 ET

Attendees: Alice Churukian, Peter Collings, Renee Diehl, Laird Kramer, Bruce Mason, Paul, Dick Peterson, Chandralekha Singh, Gay Stewart, Amber Stuver, Larry Woolf, Paul Dolan, Nic Rady (Newsletter Editors)

### Highlights:

- The FEd Business Meeting and Reception will be scheduled at the April Meeting, Sunday May 1 at 12:30 after two morning FEd Sessions. The FEd Executive Committee Meeting will be scheduled at the April Meeting, Sunday May 1 at 7:00 or 7:30, after the Ceremonial Session. Bruce will arrange these times with the APS.
- A discussion of the newly proposed FOEP led to support for its creation, but with some reservations and concerns.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 ET

### Welcome:

The minutes from the February Executive Committee Meeting were presented and approved with some minor corrections from Larry.

### 2011 Meetings:

The March and April Sessions and April Schedule are given below

Larry and Chandralekha discussed the annual FEd Forum Events, a combined business meeting and reception and the FEd Executive Committee meeting. It was decided that the best times for these events are Sunday May 1 at 12:45 for the reception and Sunday May 1 at 7:00 for the Executive Committee meeting. This was approved and Bruce will make arrangements with the APS.

Chandralekha outlined the sessions at the March and April meetings. There are a diverse set of topics to be covered, including outreach, K-12 education, undergrad and grad programs. This was announced in the Fall Newsletter. Highlights include:

March - Mentoring undergrad research, joint with the DCMP; two Focus Sessions – New ways of communicating and Computational physics; and a workshop on teaching quantum physics.

April – The Excellence in Education session; PER, open questions & solved problems, with the AAPT; best practices in undergrad research experiences, with the AAPT; exciting the public about physics; and effective use of technology. There will also be an education-related Plenary by Carl Wieman.

Peter and Chandralekha noted that the new collaboration with the AAPT on APS sessions went very smoothly. The AAPT decided to have their committees propose and organize the sessions. This collaboration will be between Renee and Gay next year.

The APS Session at the Summer AAPT meeting will be on Nano Science. It is being organized jointly with the DCMP.

### **Forum on Outreach and Engaging the Public (FOEP):**

Larry summarized the background and history of the effort to create a new forum for public outreach activities. There has been a discussion with the leaders of the existing forums about this, with concerns expressed by several of these leaders. The Executive Committee discussed the issues raised by the creation of the FOEP and its impact on the FEd. Gay will use the results of this discussion to inform her comments at the upcoming APS Council meeting.

- There was a concern about the creation of the FOEP resulting in fewer members of the FEd and the potential impact on Council Representation. It was generally agreed that it is unlikely that there will be a significant reduction in FEd membership. We would need to lose about a third of our membership to lose Council representation. The FOEP is likely to attract a different group of members. The creation of the FOEP may indicate that the FEd could not support this different audience at the level they needed.
- The FEd and FPS both have public outreach and informal education as part of their stated activities and goals. This seemed to be overlooked by those starting the FOEP. This highlights a need for better coordination between forums. It was suggested that communication between the FEd and FOEP be formalized.
- There was discussion of the role of the FOEP, stated in their bylaws, as being actively involved in outreach activities. This is different from the stated roles, and experience, of other forums. Forums have more of a responsibility for APS meeting programs

and as an advisory group to the APS office. The FOEP bylaws might need to be clarified.

- Chandralekha questioned if the forum was proposed by members of the Committee to Inform the Public in order to hold sessions at APS meetings. This is not necessary; committees can sponsor sessions.
- Peter moved that the FEd support the creation of the FOEP under the condition that the communication and collaboration between the forums be addressed. This was approved.

**Nominations:** 5 minutes (Renee)

Renee is working with the Nomination Committee on recruiting candidates for positions on the FEd Executive Committee. She provided a list of current candidates. She is having some trouble finding suitable candidates, particularly for Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. She also needs more people who are both APS and AAPT members.

Dick stated his concern about a lack of senior people on the list. It was agreed that a Postdoc should not be considered for Vice Chair or Secretary/Treasurer. Postdocs and Graduate Students will be included as Member-at-Large candidates.

Several names were suggested for candidates. Renee, Chandralekha, and Bruce will follow up on these potential candidates. Bruce will talk with the Secretary/Treasurer candidates to inform them of the duties.

**Budget:** 15 minutes

Bruce reported the current 2010 FEd budget. Besides being off by \$100,000 in the reported balance in the Excellence in Education Award account, the budget was accepted as reported. It was noted that the 2009 Topical Conference on Advanced Labs support has not yet been billed by the AAPT. Bruce will check on this. [NOTE: This has been settled.]

Renee and Bruce attended an APS workshop on Forum budgets in October. The goal is to reduce the Forum expenses that are coming from dues. Notes from this workshop are attached below. The APS will draft a proposal for a new method for Forum funding and circulate it to the forum executive committees.

**Newsletters:** 5 minutes

The Fall 2010 Newsletter is completed and online at:  
(<http://www.aps.org/units/fed/newsletters/fall2010/index.cfm>)

Chandralekha and Kiko Galvez were editors and the main focus was the 2010 Gordon Conference.

Paul is working on the Spring Newsletter. A deadline of February 1 was suggested for submissions. This will allow the newsletter to be processed and online in time for the March meeting. Amber will have an article reporting the result of her FEd mini-grant.

Nic is working on the Summer Newsletter. He wishes to include a synopsis of FEd sessions at the March and April meetings. Larry suggested that the session chairs be asked to write summaries. The goal will be to receive submissions by the end of June so the newsletter can be completed for the summer AAPT meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 ET

**FEd Sessions at the 2011 March and April APS meetings:**

<http://www.aps.org/units/fed/newsletters/fall2010/singh.cfm>

**Current FEd Schedule for the 2010 April Meeting:**

Saturday 4/30

FEd session: 1:30 PM – 3:18 PM

FEd session: 3:30 PM - 5:18 PM

General reception: ~5:30 PM -7:00 PM

Plenary session Physics in Hollywood: 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Sunday 5/1

FEd Award session: 8:30 AM -10:18 AM

FEd session: 10:45 AM -12:33 PM

FEd Reception and Business Meeting: 12:45 PM – 1:30 PM (Tentative)

APS Prize and Award session: 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Presidential Award Reception: 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

FEd Executive Committee Meeting: 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM (Tentative)

Monday 5/2

FEd session: 3:30 PM-5:18 PM

Tuesday 5/3

FEd session: 1:30 PM – 3:18 PM

There will also be one Contributed Session and one Focus Session on education to be Scheduled.

## **APS Forum Funding Workshop**

The APS held a small finances workshop in October with representatives of the forums. The issues of the Association finances, forum budgets, and current funding models were discussed. Below is a brief summary of the discussion:

1) The APS wants to try to cut the APS dues going to Forums in half, from \$120k per year to \$60k per year.

2) The current funding model for forums is a bit convoluted, but basically involves a fixed initial amount going to each forum and then per-member funding. This model was, in part, to help fund mailing costs for paper newsletters. There were suggestions to decouple forum funding from membership.

3) Currently, APS members do not pay extra dues to join two forums. If they join more than two forums, regular members pay \$7 per forum, although only around 300 members belong to more than two forums. The APS is uncomfortable with this model because of its somewhat open-ended structure. Currently, because many APS members do not belong to any forums, there is a large *potential* increase in forum funding.

4) There are a few forums (FIAP, FPS, FGSA) with large balances in their accounts.

The APS Executive Office will draft a recommendation for a new structure for forum funding. Until this recommendation is finished, we don't know how this restructuring might occur.