

Friday, April 11, 2014

Attendance:

Brock, Katie, Laura, Marilena, Eric, Ian, Valerie, Sara

Agenda:

- I. Introductions
- II. March and April Meeting -- Brock, Laura
- III. APS Councillor Meeting – Eric
- IV. Travel Grants – Alexis
- V. 2015 Program Committee – Valerie
- VI. Other items?

Minutes:

- I. *Introductions:*
 - a. Current Members
 - Brock Russell – Current Chair (University of Maryland – College Park)
 - Laura Boon – Past Chair (Purdue University)
 - Katie – Secretary (Purdue University)
 - Marilena – International Student Affairs Officer (University of Geneva)
 - Alexis Knaub – Member-at-Large (Boston University)
 - Kelly Reidy – Member-at-Large (Kent State University)
 - Eric Sorte - APS Councillor
 - b. New Members
 - Valerie Gray – Chair Elect (College of William and Mary)
 - Sara DeSavage – Treasurer (St. Mary’s College – Maryland)
 - Ian Stern – Member-at-Large (University of Florida)
 - Richard Ruiz – Member-at-Large (University of Pittsburg)
- II. *March and April Meeting – Brock and Laura*
 - a. March meeting – David was the session chair/FGSA rep.
 - i. How to apply for postdoctoral fellowships successfully
 - ii. Panel of representatives and awardees of a number of high profile fellowships including AAAS, Fulbright, etc.
 - iii. Went well, but David is an outgoing member, thus limited report this meeting.
 - b. April Meeting – Laura was the session chair/FGSA rep.
 - i. Career opportunities for physicists
 - ii. Session was about 1.5 hrs. Panel only
 - iii. 5 physicists in various occupations
 1. Two university faculty (1 small teaching college, 1 large research institution)
 2. Two industry positions (1 actuary working in insurance, and 1 Westgate employee working with hard drives – now the APS industrial fellow)

- 3. 1 National Lab
 - iv. There were tons of questions, the response was great. The panelists were swamped even after the session had ended. Huge appreciation for bringing in speakers from non-academic careers.
 - v. ~50 people, which is a lot for the April meeting
 - vi. Task force to redesign the April meeting. Instead of 1 person to run the program committee have more input.
 - vii. Lunch with Neil deGrasse Tyson
 - 1. Capped at ~100 people for food. However there were many people who showed up on the day that were let in after the 100 had gotten food.
 - 2. Went well. Pictures and an article will be in the newsletter.
 - viii. Unofficial graduate student social night
 - 1. Sent out an email to those who attended the events already – a little strange because they hadn't requested emails regarding social events.
 - 2. Thought maybe a few would attend ~10, ended up that it filled the bar ~50 people!
 - 3. Because of the response we need to do this for every meeting. Perhaps more officially.
 - 4. Try to get together a social email list. I.e. this time people would choose to receive emails about possible social events.
 - 5. All meetings, or just March and April? We need a representative of FGSA there if we are sponsoring so probably start with the two big ones and go from there.
 - ix. Cosponsored meeting with GGR (Topical Group in Gravitation)
 - 1. We weren't recognized for the cosponsor during this session. We should have been.
 - 2. Was not well attended either. Likely not advertised well, or the title was not appealing.
 - 3. Brock will follow up with this.
- III. APS Councilor Meeting – Eric
- a. New topic group
 - i. GSoft (soft matter group)
 - ii. Currently are members of disparate groups.
 - b. New undergraduate research statement (mainly smaller changes)
 - c. New journals
 - i. 2011 PRX
 - 1. Gold open access experiment
 - 2. Author fees support ~\$1500 per article
 - 3. Impact factor quite high 6.7, PRL is ~8
 - 4. Highly selective, few articles.
 - 5. Similar AIP journal has an IF of only ~1.3

- ii. 2014 Physical Review Applied PRApP
 - 1. 13 papers so far
 - 2. Currently looking for a review editor.
 - d. APS major reorganization
 - i. New laws in DC spurred as did some conflicts
 - ii. Currently the system is APS Council → Executive Board → President → Editor in Chief, Executive Officers, Treasurer
 - iii. The old system worked because people so far have been willing to work together well. Unfortunately, people are retiring which could complicate matters.
 - iv. Proposed system is Council Reps even with Board of Directors → CEO → Senior Officers
 - v. This system will have better defined roles.
 - vi. The question is who to have as the CEO an MBA, a physicist?
 - vii. Eric will send out the slides for these presentations in an email.
 - e. Local links
 - i. Bring together local networks of early career physicists
 - ii. Networking for graduate students, postdocs, and early career physicists from industrial fields.
 - iii. Should promote industry and academic cross-talk to facilitate understanding in choosing advancing new careers.
 - iv. <http://www.aps.org/membership/locallinks/index.cfm>
 - v. Currently 3: Stanford, CA; Denver, CO; Tampa FL
 - vi. The next one started will likely be in DC – Brock and Sara might join?
- IV. Travel Grants – Alexis
 - a. Unfortunately Alexis was not able to make it due to another meeting.
 - b. Generally need to know who wants to participate in this committee?
 - c. Email Alexis if you're interested!
 - d. Possibly Ian (contacted already) and/or Richard
- V. 2015 Program Committee – Valerie
 - a. Volunteers – Eric, Kate, Laura, Brock (after his defense – May/June), Sara, Ian
- VI. Other Topics
 - a. Strategic Plan
 - i. Laura wants to finish this as her role as past chair.
 - ii. Most of the details are there, they just need to be incorporated.
 - iii. Possibly send out to the membership to ratify? Would likely be good publicity for what we do. Eric will send this out.
 - b. Password protected web page for the executive committee
 - i. Contact info
 - ii. Secretary info
 - iii. Program committee info/notes
 - iv. Only FGSA executive committee can access
 - v. E.g. how to judge the travel grants
 - 1. common criteria

2. Possibly a rubric?
 3. Do we want to make this public? Up to Travel Grant committee
- c. Travel Grant Issues
 - i. 35 applications each quarter
 - ii. Full 6 are awarded each quarter
 - iii. We should make the winners more visible. Pictures on website?
 - iv. Names are currently put in the newsletter.
 - d. Webpage administrator
 - i. We need someone to consistently update the website
 - ii. Make more use of it
 - iii. We can appoint someone outside the executive committee if we want/need
 - iv. Needs to keep current
 - v. Laura will send out an email with the details and if anyone has any preference or suggestions for who to appoint, please respond.
 - e. Facebook page
 - i. Does anyone want to help Kelly with the facebook page? Vikram is gone, so we will need someone to help keep it up.