

Friday, January 18th, 2013

Attendance:

Alexis, Brock, Hassan, Eric, Katie, Laura, Marilena, Vikram, Kelly, Mike (APS)

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome to all new Members
- 2) Thank you to all past Members
- 3) Budget update (Dave Anderson)
- 4) Update from the APS Council Meetings (Eric Sorte)
- 5) Update from the Committee on Careers and Professional Development (Michael Walock)
- 6) Need Volunteer for Travel Award Program (Hassan Hasoud)
- 7) March and April Meeting sessions plans and Newsletter Special edition (Laura Boon and Vikram Prasher)
- 8) Update on CAM13 (Laura Boon)
- 9) Update on Facebook (Vikram Prasher and Kelly Reidy)
- 10) Nominations Committee? (Megan Comins)
- 11) FGSA Strategic Plan??
- 12) Website
- 13) Executive Position Information

Minutes:

- 1) Welcome to new members
 - a. Chair-Elect: Brock Russell (University of Maryland-College Park)
 - b. Secretary: Katie Davis (Purdue University)
 - c. International Student Affairs Officer: Maria Longobardi (University of Geneva)
 - d. Member-at-Large: Alexis Knaub (Boston University)
 - e. Member-at-Large: Kelly Reidy (Kent State University) –moving from secretary
- 2) Thanks to past members
 - a. CAM (Canadian-American-Mexican Graduate Student Physics Conference – hosted by graduate students for graduate students) 2011 Washington D.C. (Abhishek Kumar)
 - b. Facebook page started this year (Vikram and Kelly)
 - i. Open to anyone to post anything interesting.
 - ii. Changes to the RSS feed
 - c. Committees
 - i. Nomination Committee
 1. Megan and Renee
 2. Run Elections
 - ii. Program Committee
 1. Help the chair elect – particularly with March meeting sessions.
 2. Members: Megan Comins, Abhishek Kumar, Hassan Masoud, Hamilton Carter, Vikram Prasher

3. This year will be Brock (Chair-elect)

3) Budget

- a. ~\$20k a year (close to \$24,250 this year)
 - i. \$12k: travel grants
 - ii. ~\$650: CSWP (Committee on the Status of Women in Physics) negotiation workshop for graduate students - post-doc one held previously.
 - iii. ~\$1000: special edition newsletter printouts for March and April meetings
 - iv. \$6,742: March/April meetings for speakers, etc.
 - v. \$1500: Graduate Education in Physics Conference, travel grants for 3 graduate students to attend.
 - vi. ~\$2,300 end of year carryover
- b. Working on getting more money from the APS
 - i. Last year we were one of the wealthiest units, in order to save up for CAM. However, no longer.
 - ii. APS is essentially the only source of our funding.
 - iii. CAM proposal this year, not from operating budget, to fund 35 students and 3 speakers to attend CAM2013 in Canada.

4) APS council meeting

- a. Nov 2012, most recent.
- b. Open access publishing
 - i. APS is negative towards this option.
 - ii. Joseph Serene has article in APS News explaining their position: <http://www.aps.org/publications/apsnews/201210/openaccess.cfm>
 - iii. Generally, there is a minimum overhead required for peer-reviewed publishing, even though most work is free and volunteered. Fears are that this could prevent libraries from purchasing subscriptions which would then decrease the budgets and weaken the process.
 - iv. England is currently instituting an open access model, taxation funded. Interesting to watch.
- c. What is going on in Congress?
 - i. Michael Lubell: APS liaison for public policy – his slides can be shared. (Contact Eric)
 - ii. Looming crisis for science!
 1. Fiscal cliff – currently deferred cuts on spending
 2. Debt ceiling
 3. Sequestration for government runs out! – Initial date was Jan 2013, but with fiscal cliff business, has gotten pushed back.
 4. Will have huge consequences on funding organizations including but not limited to the NSF, APS, NIH, etc.
 5. Contact Congressmen and senators!! – Students have a lot more sway than they believe and it is critical they make their voices heard.

- a. **Contact APS if interested.** They can place you in contact with the right people. They have form letters to make things as easy as possible.
- b. Sequestration Petition Letter on APS.org (looks like it has already been submitted) – 6000 names of undergraduate and graduate students in the sciences: <http://www.aps.org/policy/tools/grassroots/squesstudents.cfm>

5) Committees on Careers and Professional Development

- a. Michael Walock represents graduate students on this APS committee. – Megan Comins will replace him in May.
- b. Concerned with the career website, job webinars, APS meeting career panels.
- c. Lectureship prize committee - Goal to get industrial members to give lectures at the APS meetings.
- d. 'Workshop' to take CV's and create resumes.
 - i. 90% of all bachelor's, master's and PhD degrees go into industry
 - ii. Concern that most of these leave the APS after graduation. They think they 'should'. Not aware of things APS can do to help now. How to solve this?
- e. Want to also mix industrial membership in meetings. Encourage attendance.
- f. 2nd committee on graduate education
 - i. All PhD granting departments are invited to be involved.
 - ii. College Park
 - iii. All directors and department heads are invited to work on improving graduate education.
- g. Department Chair Meeting (June) – funding for graduate education.
- h. APS webinars are free! You can register and watch after the fact to make things easier scheduling wise.
 - i. Tentative ideas for Fall
 1. Best practices for an industry job search
 2. Funding graduate education
 3. Teaching in a non-university setting
 4. Getting hired with a bachelor's degree
 5. Crystal Bailey is working on finalizing these.

6) Travel Award Program

- a. Modified last year
 - i. Funding increase to \$12k/year.
 - ii. Change title to "FGSA Travel Award for Excellence in Graduate Research" for the purposes of increasing prestige on CV's
 - iii. Made the award quarterly. Previously had been first come first serve which was unfair for those applying for conferences later in the year.
 - iv. Asked applicants to submit a 1-2 page statement of purpose and their CV as a gauge of merit also to increase prestige.
 - v. 6 awards of \$500 each quarter
- b. Successful
 - i. 40-50 applicants last quarter

- ii. ~20 the quarters previously
 - c. Hassan's position has ended → need volunteers
 - i. Traditionally a member-at-large
 - ii. **Alexis and Marilena** joint position
 - iii. **Need to be added to the FGSA email address, fgsatravel@aps.org.**
(Laura will contact Trish Lettieri)
 - d. Suggestions for additional improvements?
 - i. Increase funding (requires approval)
 - ii. Separate international and domestic awards
 - iii. Currently the **APS website is incorrect** and lists an \$850 international travel grant the FGSA site is ok. – Needs to be fixed.
 - iv. The Forum on International Physics has an international travel grant that brings in international students to conferences in the US. Nothing currently reciprocal. (FGSA tangentially involved)
 - v. The values of \$500 and \$850 are not set in stone, perhaps having something more substantial for the international travel grant might be more reasonable. – **Talk to Dave**
- 7) March and April Meetings
- a. Previous Chair of program committee (Laura) → Now Brock.
 - b. March
 - i. Talks on physics jobs in government and science policy. Speakers will discuss their experience.
 - 1. Laura Hopkins – APS fellow
 - 2. Partick Looney – Chair of sustainable energy technology at Brookhaven
 - 3. Amy Flatten – Director of International Affairs at APS
 - ii. Panel discussion at the end.
 - 1. Tyler Glembo – In charge of Congressional Visits with APS
 - 2. Hugh Van Horn – Past NSF director of astronomical sciences
 - 3. Gavi Begtrup – unconfirmed
 - iii. Student reception on Tuesday evening
 - 1. Hosted by the membership department
 - 2. Laura will be there to talk about FGSA and to award the travel grants.
 - 3. Open bar...
 - c. April
 - i. Hamilton worked with Forum on International Physics
 - ii. Speakers on Science Diplomacy
 - 1. Brazilian minister of science and technology
 - 2. Rep. from the State Department
 - 3. Science advisor for the Secretary of State
 - iii. Student reception
- 8) Newsletter
- a. 2 editions in 2012
 - i. July and December

- ii. There was a good response. People emailed asking to write articles and submit advertisements.
- iii. December's posted on the FGSA website, APS facebook page, APS twitter, FGSA facebook page
- iv. Spread the word!

b. Suggestions?

c. Special edition

- i. Will be distributed at the March and April meetings, and focused on the meetings
- ii. Ads will be sponsored by other units.
- iii. Currently discussions regarding – how many pages? How many printouts? What will be inside? Ideas?
- iv. Updates will come later.
- v. **Need volunteers** to distribute at each of the meetings.
- vi. Still in the process of combining student events for the meetings. **Are there any other talks, panels, etc. that graduate students might be interested in?**

9) CAM13

- a. Hosted by the Canadian Association for Physicists at the University of Waterloo in August.
- b. Turning in proposal for funds to help sponsor students attendance today! Travel grants for US students (~35).
- c. There will be 10-12 professionals from various fields (optics, accelerator physics, atmospheric science, etc.) to give talks on their research.
- d. 2 panels
 - i. Collaborators across borders
 - ii. Doing science when you need money
- e. There isn't a whole lot to do because it is held in Canada.
- f. All encouraged to apply to attend!

10) Facebook

- a. Currently 256 members.
- b. No critical updates.
- c. RSS feeds still need to be updated, and the frequency changed. Currently being done by Chelsea who is still learning the mechanism. Alterations are in the works.
- d. **Direct contact** (talking to friends and friends of friends) is still the best way to get the membership up.
- e. **The name or name/format needs to be changed** as it is not easy to find via FGSA. Currently: "APS Physics Forum on Graduate Student Affairs".
- f. Put link on the FGSA page to the facebook page.
- g. Everyone is encouraged to post anything they find interesting or that other graduate students might find helpful on the page.
- h. **Don't post AIP things.**

11) Science Marketing Campaign

- a. Nationwide, sciencewide campaign to push science in general.
- b. Organized by the APS office of public affairs

- c. Goal to reach out to Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Engineering, etc. to create a marketing campaign to combat negative views of science and scientists
- d. A nationwide survey indicated that science comes #1 & 2 in the list of the first thing to cut in a government budget. This was true across all ages, and all party lines.
- e. Aim to relate science to everyday things and people.
- f. Hope to train scientists to talk to non-scientists about their research, including training for radio and television interviews.
- g. Want to publicize the things science has done for the average person. Stress its importance.
- h. March & April meetings
 - i. March session fell through – 12 people will be given a training session for radio/TV interviews
 - ii. April meeting
 - 1. Session titled: “Science and Communication a Potent Cocktail”.
 - 2. Speakers Ben Aimes (PhD student and winner of the Alan Aldas Flame Challenge) and 2 others.
- i. Very interested in involving graduate students

12) Future Plans

- a. FGSA Strategic Plan?
 - i. APS wrote one last year as a plan/goal for the next 5-10 years.
 - ii. Should we do one? As an exercise in focusing our efforts?
 - iii. **Eric, Marilena and Laura will work on this.** Gathering information from APS to coordinate our efforts.
 - 1. What has been done/is being done at the APS level?
 - 2. What can members do or distribute?
 - 3. We have ~4000 members, and need to reach out.
- b. Update the website
 - i. We are not responsible for coding, just contacting the web people and telling them what we want, and how we want it.
 - ii. Perhaps we can add things like finding jobs, or surviving graduate school, etc.
 - iii. Clean up the things that no longer link to anything.
 - iv. **Need volunteers... - Will discuss more at the next meeting.**
- c. Executive Position Information
 - i. What information would be helpful when starting a position?
 - ii. How to do things? Such as uploading the minutes, etc. for your position?
 - iii. Mike has a intro booklet for secretary, this has been a goal for a while.
 - iv. Megan began writing one for the chair position last year. In the works.
 - v. Could be helpful to have all these descriptions on the website.
 - 1. Public with important details (e.g. for secretary) blocked out.
 - 2. Private for officers only. Currently, nothing like that.
 - vi. Contact previous officers for helpful input in documents.

- vii. Might be helpful to have similar documents for committees/activities like facebook, travel grants etc. to make transitions between officers easier.
- viii. **Eric and Laura will spearhead this task.** If anyone has a description of their position already, forward it to them.