

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting Denver, Colorado 2 May 2004

The meeting was called to order by Chair-Elect Nina Byers at 8:40.

Introductions. Nina Byers introduced those who were present and urged non voting members to participate fully in discussions. She invited Executive Committee members to volunteer for committee service.

Minutes of past meetings. The minutes of Executive Committee meetings held in April, June, September, and October 2003 (the latter three electronic) were approved as submitted.

Report of the Chair. Michael Riordan's written report was circulated. Ken Ford drew attention especially to Michael's comments about the work of the Award Committee and about the state of the budget.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report. *Election results.* Ken Ford reported the election of Virginia Trimble as Vice-Chair; Harry Lustig as Secretary-Treasurer; Noemie Benczer-Koller as an immediate replacement for Gerald Holton on the Executive Committee for a term ending in April 2006; and John Rigden and Roger Stuewer to three-year Executive Committee terms ending in April 2007. He noted that the Web voting went quite well and elicited a record number of voters: 407 on the Web, 65 on paper, the total of 472 being 15 percent of the membership, more than double last year's total. *Membership.* Ken reported no significant change of FHP membership in 2004. The official count is 3,141 members, 7.3 percent of APS membership, about the same as it has been for the last decade. *Finances.* Ken presented actual financial results for 2003 and projected results for 2004. In 2003, FHP assets increased by \$1,390, from \$13,035 to \$14,425. The gain was attributable to less-than-expected travel expenses for Executive Committee members and invited speakers. The pro-forma projection for 2004 was for a decrease in assets of \$3,800. However, actions taken later in this meeting render that projection moot and lead to projected break-even or better in 2004. Web site. Ken reported that the FHP Web site is pretty much up to date, but could use additional links to other related sites. Some members suggested that the picture now adorning the top of the FHP page be replaced, since it has been there for more than a year. It was also suggested that the FHP "home" page include a direct link to the FHP by-laws. *AIP meeting.* Ken reported on his attendance at a meeting convened by Spencer Weart that brought together representatives of many AIP member societies. The meeting revealed a great deal of history-related activity taking place in societies other than APS, and gave the representatives an opportunity to see the impressive facilities of the Niels Bohr Library. **Action:** Virginia Trimble volunteered to explore the "obituary situation" in APS, given that AAS does an extensive job of presenting obituaries of its deceased members, and APS does not (apart from limited obituaries in *Physics Today*).

Program Committee reports. *General.* Nina Byers reported on the successful sessions in Montreal in March and those planned for this "April" meeting in Denver. Ben Bederson said he would solicit summaries of at least the surface physics and industrial lab sessions in Montreal for the Newsletter. John Rigden recommended that the contributions of non-Ph.D. physicists, who predominate in industry, should not be overlooked. *Contributed session.* Nina Byers reported (for Patrick McCray) that seven contributed papers had been received for the Denver meeting (one of them presented in a poster session). Nina recommended that FHP encourage contributed-paper sessions at both the March and April meetings next year. Harry Lustig noted that such sessions could be considered also at more specialized other meetings. *Einstein sessions.* Bob Romer reported (for himself and Laurie Brown) that invited sessions scheduled for 2005—2 in March in Los Angeles and 3 in April in

Tampa—are well along in planning and will all be titled "Einstein and X," where X is some important friend or colleague of Einstein. Bob will distribute details to the Executive Committee. Members emphasized the importance of seeking additional travel support for speakers by having institutions invite them for "collateral" talks.

Newsletter Editor's report. Ben Bederson reported that despite the fact that 90 percent of respondents in a recent email poll agreed with the proposition that paper copies of the Newsletter should be sent only to members who "opt in," the fact is that many members, either through lack of information or sloth, will not opt in and will also not access the online version of the Newsletter, cutting them off from its content. He therefore proposed an "opt-out" system in which paper copies will go to all members who don't opt out of receiving it. Virginia Trimble announced a generous gift of \$5,000 to FHP (with planned gifts of the same magnitude in 2005 and 2006) to make possible the plan put forth by Ben without busting the budget. **Action:** The following motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstention: **The Executive Committee endorses the opt-out plan put forth by Ben Bederson and warmly thanks Virginia Trimble for her generous support that will make this possible.**

Other Newsletter matters. (a) Ben asked members to send him ideas and information for the Newsletter. (b) He asked for any information that members might have on planned centennial celebrations of the life or achievements of J. Robert Oppenheimer (who was born in 1904). (c) He said that he will try to winnow the list of "guest" recipients of the Newsletter and will ask libraries to pay the \$5 per year subscription fee.

Forum Councilor's report. Time did not allow for the presentation of this report at the meeting. Gloria Lubkin will distribute her report to Executive Committee members.

Discussions with APS officers. **Judy Franz** and **Alan Chodos** reported on APS plans for the 2005 World Year of Physics (see www.physics2005.org). They emphasized that the activities are not keyed to Einstein's work, but rather to physics education and outreach in general. For example, programs for fifth grade, middle school, and high school are being developed, including distributed LIGO computing for high-school students. These officers encouraged FHP (as they are encouraging all units) to develop specific outreach programs. Judy indicated that APS funds are unlikely to be available for FHP's Einstein sessions.

Judy reminded the Executive Committee that there are no badge checks at Forum sessions, so members of the public can be invited to attend without cost, and speakers themselves, if attending only Forum sessions, can do so without registering.

Tom McIlrath introduced **Margarita Lazarou** and **Mike Stephens**, and spoke about the fiscal challenges of the APS publishing program. He reported that Phys Rev D is being moved from AIP to Beacon Press, and that bids for Phys Rev C will be solicited. He spoke also of initiatives to make APS journals available at reduced cost to scientists in third-world countries.

Pais Award Committee report, Harry Lustig presented a written report on the work of the Pais Award Committee, noting that funds raised to date total \$138,000. An earned-interest payment of \$7,000 from APS will bring this to \$145,000 and other initiatives are under way. In addition, the Lounsbery Foundation has pledged the "final" \$13,000 in a drive for \$200,000, to be donated when funds raised from other sources reach \$187,000. **Action:** The following motion, presented on behalf of the Committee, passed by a vote of 6 in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstention: **That the Award Committee be continued in existence for another year, until the April 2005 meeting, with the goal of ultimately raising the endowment to the \$200,000 level required for conversion of the Abraham Pais Award in the History of Physics to the Abraham Pais Prize in the History of**

Physics; that the Forum Chair have the authority to make changes in the Award Committee membership in consultation with the existing Committee and the approval of the Executive Committee; and that upon having reached the financial goal, the Award Committee report back to the Executive Committee for consideration of a motion to convert the Award to a Prize.

Fellowship Committee report. Bob Romer reported that the committee has nothing specific to report at this time because the deadline for nominations to reach APS is May 15. Nina Byers encouraged committee members to take an active role in soliciting nominations. Elizabeth Paris noted that the pressure to provide more FHP Fellows is, at best, modest, because 17 percent of FHP members are already Fellows, most presumably on the basis of achievement in research outside of history. Harry Lustig noted, however, that it is easy to overlook APS members who live abroad; he recommended that the committee encourage Fellowship nominations of foreign members. Elizabeth recommended that the committee be quite alert to the possible perception of conflict of interest when committee members themselves take an active role in securing nominations. Several Executive Committee members agreed with her suggestion that a change in the bylaws be considered at some point in the future to eliminate this possible conflict-of-interest problem.

Membership Committee report. Time did not allow for presentation of this report. However, Virginia Trimble noted that about a dozen new members were secured at an FHP session the preceding day. The practice of distributing flyers at FHP-sponsored sessions continues.

Nominating Committee report. Time did not allow for presentation of this report. It was noted, however, that the committee, chaired by Hans Frauenfelder, produced an unusually strong slate of candidates.

Historic Sites Committee report. Time did not allow for presentation of this report. John Rigden, who chairs this committee, mentioned that its membership included senior physicists of unusual distinction.

Einstein Year report. This agenda item was covered in part by Bob Romer's report on planned sessions for 2005 (see agenda item above).

Dan Greenberger reported on his contacts with two publishers, Kluwer and World Scientific, both of which expressed interest in publishing the proceedings of next year's Einstein sessions. They (and especially World Scientific) expressed some interest, as well, in publishing a series on the history of physics. Gloria Lubkin noted that when FHP was first formed (as a Division), it was agreed that the unit would never publish. **Action.** The following motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 1 opposed **That the Editorial Board and Publishing Committee of FHP have a common membership until such time as they can be combined into a single committee, and that the committee(s) pursue discussions with publishers regarding publishing of the proceedings of Einstein sessions in 2005.** In explaining her vote against the motion, Gloria Lubkin said that many invited speakers might refuse the invitation to speak if they were expected to publish their talks in a conference proceedings. Mike Nauenberg noted that this potential problem could be solved by making publication voluntary.

2005 budget. Ken Ford presented a budget for 2005 that was already moot because of earlier action at this meeting regarding the Newsletter and because of the gift tendered by Virginia Trimble. This budget was amended on the spot to show total income of \$20,900 (including the \$5,000 gift) and total expenditures of \$20,000. The latter included \$7,000 for the Newsletter and \$5,000 for invited sessions in the Einstein Year (i.e., 2005). **Action. The budget, as revised, was adopted by a vote of 7 in favor, none opposed. Action.** By a vote of 7 in favor, none opposed, **the Executive Committee authorized Harry Lustig and Bob Romer to formulate possible speaker and**

outreach programs and to approach APS management for additional one-time funds for such special programs in 2005.

Future sessions. There was some discussion of a special session to highlight the first Pais Award winner, possibly a focus session with contributed papers augmenting the invited lecture.

2004-2005 committees. Nina Byers made good initial progress in setting up committees for the coming year by gaining volunteers for many of the committee slots.

Other business. *Discussion board.* Nina Byers called attention to the now-available Discussion Board for the Executive Committee and advocated that it be used regularly during the coming year. *Ronald Mirman's "challenge."* Ben Bederson is handling this matter by inviting Mirman to submit an article for the Newsletter. *Bylaws.* Gloria Lubkin reminded the Executive Committee that action must be taken to complete the official revision of the bylaws, since changes adopted three years ago have never been officially implemented.

Adjournment and next meeting. Nina Byers raised the question of whether next year's Executive Committee meeting could be in Los Angeles in March instead of in Tampa in April. There was general agreement that the committee should meet in Tampa as previously planned.

The meeting adjourned at 14:10.

Respectfully submitted
Kenneth Ford
Secretary-Treasurer (through this meeting)

Minutes of the 2004 Annual Business Meeting of the APS Forum on History of Physics (FHP)

The meeting was called to order at 17:15 on 3 May 2004 in Plaza Court 3 of the Adams Mark Hotel, Denver. In the absence of the Forum's chair, Nina Byers, the Chair-Elect, Robert Romer, presided.

Dr. Romer reviewed the Forum's activities in the year 2003-2004 and outlined some of the plans for 2004-2005. Calendar Year 2005 has been designated by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics and by UNESCO as the World Year of Physics, in observation of the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein's annus mirabilis. The Forum on History of Physics will contribute to the observation by organizing several sessions on "Einstein and Friends" -- Einstein and some of the many people with whom he interacted and on whose work he had a direct influence. FHP has appointed a Committee on Historic Sites, composed of distinguished physicists, to assist the APS in identifying and commemorating important sites in the history of physics in the United States.

In the past year two APS members were nominated by FHP and approved by APS for fellowship on the basis of their achievements in the history of physics. They are Leopold Halpern and Frieda Stahl. Dr. Stahl was in attendance and was presented with her fellowship certificate by Dr. Romer.

The Secretary-Treasurer of FHP, Harry Lustig, distributed two reports, one containing membership statistics for 1991–2004, voting statistics for 1996–2004, and election results for 2004, the other the Statement of Income and Expenses for calendar year 2003. Both reports had been prepared by Kenneth Ford before his term of office as Secretary-Treasurer ended on 2 May 2004.

Having risen from 2200 in 1991 to 3094 in 2000, the FHP membership has remained more or less constant since then. A similar trend holds for the ratio of FHP membership to the total APS membership; it now stands at 7.3%. While voting statistics have fluctuated somewhat, they reached their highest value in 2004, when 15.0% of FHP's members cast ballots. An improved system of electronic voting appears to have been largely responsible for that result. The voters elected Virginia Trimble as Vice Chair, Harry Lustig as Secretary- Treasurer, and Noemie Benczer-Koller, John Rigden, and Roger Stuewer as Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee.

In calendar year 2003 FHP's Income amounted to \$14,246, most of it as capitation payments from APS. Expenses were \$12,855, more than half of them for the Newsletter, and much of the rest for travel. The net gain for the year was \$1390, bringing the Forum's assets to \$14,426.

A brief discussion period followed. The meeting was adjourned at 17:25.

Harry Lustig
Secretary-Treasurer