

Minutes of the Executive Committee of the APS Forum on the History of Physics, Monday, May 2, 2011, 8:30 am -- 1:00 pm, Commodore Board Room, Hyatt Orange County Hotel, Garden Grove, CA.

[The minutes of what will probably (due to a Bylaws change) be the final "Annual Business Meeting" of the FHP are at the end of this report.]

Present: Executive Committee (EC) members Daniel Kleppner (Chair), Martin Blume (Chair Elect), Peter Pesic (Vice Chair), Thomas Miller (Secretary-Treasurer), Gloria Lubkin (Past Chair), Michael Riordan (Forum Councilor), Ed Neuenschwander (Newsletter Editor), At-Large members Paul Cadden-Zimansky, Cathryn Carson, Clayton Gearhart, and Robert Arns.

Attending by speakerphone: Gregory Good (AIP representative). **Also attending:** Webmaster George Zimmerman, Vice Chair Elect Don Howard, Members-at-Large Elect Catherine Westfall and Robert Crease, and by speakerphone from ACP, Joe Anderson (Niels Bohr Library & Archives -- NBLA). **Drop-in Guests:** Kate Kirby (APS Executive Officer) and Darlene Logan (APS Director of Development).

Absent: At-Large members Francis Everitt and Elizabeth Garber.

1. Welcome, Introductions, and 2010 Minutes.

Kleppner opened the meeting. The 2010 Minutes were approved with a correction (that has already been made).



2. Secretary-Treasurer Report and Update on Revised FHP Bylaws.

Miller reported (a) figures on FHP's membership (see **Attachment 1**), which is declining, but slowly enough that it's not clear that we should be worried; (b) 17.5% of FHP members voted in the annual election, making Don Howard the incoming Vice Chair and Robert Crease and Catherine Westfall the incoming At-Large members of the EC; (c) the FHP ended 2010 with a "profit" of about \$9k due to having the Newsletter entirely online; (d) a new funding formula for forums gives FHP \$3k more than in past years; and (e) we have banked \$3.1k in interest on our endowment fund which is available for lectures (perhaps in memory of Harry Lustig). Kleppner noted that Council had approved the revised FHP Bylaws on Friday, and all that remains is approval by FHP membership in the next annual election.

3. Program Committee Report.

Blume gave a review of the FHP sessions at the 2011 March meeting in Dallas (see **Attachment 2**); Pesic gave a review of the FHP sessions at the 2011 April meeting (two of which were scheduled to take place after the EC meeting time) (see **Attachment 2**). Pesic solicited ideas for future sessions. Some which have been suggested are (a) the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Ed Purcell, appropriate for the 2012 March meeting in Boston; (b) the hundredth anniversary of the birth of C. S. Wu, which would be of special interest because she was the first woman president of APS (if adopted, Lubkin reminded that Wu's student Noemie Benczer-Koller could help, but that we had sessions on parity nonconservation in the recent past); (c) Kleppner suggested a session on the work of Bruno



Rossi for the April meeting; (d) Crease suggested a session on metrology -- a good book on the history of metrology is coming out; (e) Westfall and Crease suggested a session on the history of synchrotrons; and (f) Cadden-Zimansky suggested a session on the (approximate) 150th anniversary of Maxwell's equations, noting that we rarely honor anything other than 20th

century physics (Lubkin noted that Francis Everitt is an expert on this topic). Pesic asked that suggestions -- even if listed here -- be e-mailed to him and the new program co-chair, Howard, fleshed out a bit if possible. Pesic also discussed the problem of keeping crank papers out of FHP sessions -- a job of whomever attends the sorters meeting. FHP is not obligated to accept a paper in its sessions, even if the title mentions "history."

4. Forum Councilor Report. Riordan had distributed a report on the November 2010 Council meeting (see **Attachment 3**), and gave an oral report on Friday's Council meeting: (a) Council approved a new climate statement. The climate issue motivated a change to the APS Bylaws, which was also approved, on a protocol for making policy statements. Policy statements must be sent back to the Panel on Public Affairs if revision is seen needed by Council, rather than being patched up by Council. The Executive Board may act if a rapid response is needed. (b) Riordan complained to Council about the process by which the new Forum on Outreach and Engaging the Public (FOEP) was carried out in unnecessary haste with little apparent concern for input from other forums. (c) Riordan is concerned about a proliferation of poorly thought-out prizes and awards -- 5 new ones in November and 2 more in April. Some prize and award endowments are too low to support the prize or award and are subsidized by APS, which it cannot continue, particularly since the interest rate on the endowments is sure to fall well below the present 5.5%. (d) The \$14M renovation of APS publishing facilities in Ridge, NY, has been held up by environmentalists. The renovation represents a drain on APS finances even without the holdup. (e) The revised FHP Bylaws were approved.

5. Permission Statement. Blume reported on the development of a form that APS requires speakers to sign before their talks can be posted on the FHP website. The form puts responsibility (and possible liability) on the speaker to ensure that no copyrighted material is included. The form is controversial because of the liability issue. Zimmerman commented that most speakers have signed the form and are happy to have their presentations on the web. Riordan commented that he wouldn't sign the form because his presentation includes photos and graphics lifted from various sources.

6. Webmaster Report. Zimmerman reported on progress in having audio and slide presentations of speakers posted on the FHP website over the past 3 years. (See **Attachment 4**). Zimmerman synchronizes the audio and slides himself. FHP needs more publicity for the online presentations. They should at least be easy to find on the FHP website, which is undergoing

improvement at the present time. The APS is setting up a system that will allow speakers to upload presentations more easily. According to the April 2011 APS News, the motivation is to make presentations accessible to the many foreign members for whom attending meetings is more difficult.

7. Ad Hoc Committee on Improving the Effectiveness of FHP. Kleppner described discussions that have taken place on improving the FHP website and coordination with the newsletter.



8. Kate Kirby Visit. The APS Executive Officer visited the EC meeting to entertain questions and comments. (a) She was asked to find out if FHP could record -- audio or video -- its sessions without violating contracts with hotels or A/V companies, as was told to us at the Unit Convocation. (b) Kirby talked about the large student membership in APS. Blume noted that a meeting this summer at AIP would be a good place to recruit students interested in the history of physics. See "Continuity and Discontinuity in the Physical Sciences since the Early Enlightenment: A Conference for Graduate Students and Early-Career Scholars" on the AIP Center for the History of Physics website. (c) Kirby noted the disparate sizes of the March meeting (~7000 registrants -- larger this year than last) compared to the April meeting (1000-1400 registrants); meeting with AAPT last year brought in more registrants (1543 APS registrants alone). (d) Kirby noted that the dates of the 2011 April meeting were bad for most academics whose semesters were ending. The 2012 April meeting is presently similarly scheduled, so APS staff is trying to get the meeting moved earlier in April.

9. Fellowship Committee Report. Pesic gave a brief report on the nominations acted on by the Fellowship Committee (and approved by APS) and the annual problem of not having much time to act, particularly if any problem is encountered. See **Attachment 5**.

10. Newsletter Editor Report. Neuenschwander reported on the two online issues of the FHP Newsletter that were put out in 2010. His department paid the cost of printing and mailing about 100 copies of the Newsletter for libraries and persons who have requested a paper copy. (See **Attachment 6**). He noted that the online publication opens up opportunities for making the Newsletter more exciting. Neuenschwander thanked those who have helped him and said that he has enjoyed the editorship and working with people he's met through FHP. Riordan commented that a persistent problem is arranging volunteers to take notes at sessions and to send a report to the Editor within the deadline, and that the session organizers need to do this well in advance of the session. He said that the Editor shouldn't have to make such arrangements or have to pressure the volunteer. Kleppner suggested that organizing a session should cover speakers, session chair, and reporter. Riordan's opinion is that the chair of the session must be responsible for getting a report to the Editor within the deadline. There was discussion on who should be responsible. We passed around data provided by Sara Connors of APS on the number and timing of hits on the newsletter website and its various sections, which will mainly be useful in assessing the success of ideas for attracting more people to the stories.

11. Nominating Committee Report. Lubkin gave a brief report on the work of the Nominating Committee. See **Attachment 7**.

12. Institutional Histories Report.

Arns, in an effort with the “Wizard of GOZ,” reported mixed results in getting institutions to write up their histories. There have not been many new ones in the past 15 months. (See **Attachment 8**). Further, we have to be cognizant of the fact that a history posted on an institutional website isn’t permanent. A few places have removed historical information so as not to seem too old fashioned to prospective students. Arns and



Zimmerman emphasized that we need more industrial input. Because e-mail has replaced letter-writing, records are disappearing every time the delete button is pressed. Anderson commented that there are a lot of oral histories at NBLA that are directly relevant to institutional histories. Miller noted that most unit websites do not list the names of people who have served the units on their ECs. He showed a handout (**Attachment 9**) that was included in the packet given unit officers at the recent Unit Convocation, asking them to preserve this information and other historical information. He said that he, Kleppner, and Kirby have all been officers in DAMOP, but you won't see that on the DAMOP website. Kleppner said that DAMOP was founded during WWII by Rabi (as the Division of Electron Physics), and he'd like to know what war work was taking place at the Rad Lab at MIT that inspired the desire for the division. Miller would like to see at least a list of early chairs of DAMOP. Ditto other units.

13. Darlene Logan Visit. The APS Director of Development, Darlene Logan, visited the EC meeting to discuss a fundraising campaign for an endowment that would allow FHP to provide travel assistance to FHP invited speakers, most of whom are retired or foreign, and occasionally not even physicists. Council has approved the campaign, and an agreement has been signed between APS and AIP to avoid conflict with CHP fundraising. Kleppner will be heading the drive, with a committee consisting thus far of Lubkin, Blume, Gerald Holton, David Cassidy, and Virginia Trimble. Logan said that a personal touch with donors works best, and face-to-face is preferable. Suggestions for donors should be sent to Logan, and she can provide contact information.

14. Oral History Interviews Conducted by Students. Cadden-Zimansky repeated a suggestion made last year of having graduate students conduct ~1 hour oral history interviews with researchers at APS meetings. Westfall offered to train interviewers. Good said that one must prepare for an interview by learning the interviewee’s record and reading his/her major papers. Permission forms must also be signed if the interview is to be posted online or otherwise used by historians. Neuenschwander said that SPS has a successful record of having undergraduates write reports on oral histories that they conduct. A motion was passed asking

Cadden-Zimansky, Westfall, and Good to act as an ad hoc committee to develop the idea and to keep the EC informed.

15. New Committee Assignments. Blume asked people to contact him about volunteering for positions on FHP committees and/or suggesting other persons.

16. Certificates. Kleppner presented certificates of appreciation to retiring EC members Arns, Everitt, and Neuenschwander, to retiring Past Chair Gloria Lubkin, and to the members of the Bylaws Revision Committee, Bob Romer, David Cassidy, and Miller.

17. Thanks to Dan Kleppner. Blume thanked Dan Kleppner for his extraordinary leadership as Chair. Blume's statement was met with enthusiastic approval by the rest of the EC.

18. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

Attachment 1

Secretary-Treasurer Report, May 2011 (Tom Miller)

1. Membership. As of January 2011, FHP had 3744 members, 7.76% of APS, a percentage that slowly declines each year. (Last year: 3797 FHP members, 7.92% of APS.) A breakdown will be given for each type of membership: Regular 1530; Life 340; Senior (retired) 660; Junior (postdoc) 122; and Student 1034. FHP has a total of 591 Fellows. The gender breakdown is Male 3123; Female 351; and None 212.

2. Election. In the annual election, 622 people voted online, and I received 24 paper ballots, for a total of 646 voters. Our membership as of April 2011 was 3686, so 17.5% voted in the election. Last year: 16.2%. Upon the close of the April APS meeting, the Vice-Chair will be Don Howard, and the new at-large members of the Executive Committee (three-year terms) will be Bob Crease and Catherine Westfall. Dan Kleppner verified the online results; the paper ballots could have changed the outcome, but mirrored the online voting, as usual.

3. Treasury. FHP has maintained a baseline bank balance of about \$15,000 as insurance against colossal disasters or mistakes. Income each year consists of an allocation from the APS every January, investment interest on our monthly bank balance, a share of March and April meeting income depending on the level of FHP participation, and donations (usually earmarked for specific purposes such as named lectures or student travel grants). Expenses are mainly travel to Executive Committee meetings and sorters meetings and stipends to assist invited speakers with travel expenses. The year 2010 was the first year in which FHP had the Newsletter entirely online, which opened up roughly half of our income for speaker expenses (or whatever projects the EC chooses to do with the money). The regular accounts (i.e., not counting the endowment funds) showed the following in 2010:

Income:

FHP share of APS dues, \$16,986.

FHP share of March meeting, \$612.

FHP share of April meeting, \$648.
Interest on accounts, \$1,119.
TOTAL INCOME: \$19,365.

Expenses:

Newsletter printing & mailing, \$0.
EC meeting travel, \$5,237.
Sorters or program meetings, \$0.
April meeting "Expert" lunch, \$413.
EC lunch, \$820.
Invited speaker expenses (3), \$3,392.
Registration fee (speaker from France), \$330.
Conference calls, \$218.
FedEx, \$11.
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$10,421.

Last year, the total expenses line read \$19,751. The difference is mainly the online Newsletter and the lower EC travel expenses for the Washington meeting (compared with Denver). We'll be using the surplus for better support of invited speakers in 2011 than we are usually able to afford.

In addition to the regular FHP account tabulated above, FHP has an endowment fund initiated by a \$10,718 donation from Harry Lustig, a \$14,000 donation from Virginia Trimble, a \$3,000 anonymous donation, and \$500 from Dan Kleppner, for a total endowment of \$28,218. The interest from the endowment stands at \$3,092 and is available for speaker support. The interest rate on the endowment is higher than on regular accounts.

Budget for 2011. The 2011 budget will differ from the 2010 in three respects: (a) the APS funding of forums has changed, giving us \$3,014 more than in 2010; (b) we have more money available to support invited speakers in 2011 because of the large 2010 surplus; and (c) I expect higher EC travel and lunch costs for the Anaheim meeting. Items (b) and (c) are difficult to estimate, but an educated guess is that (b) will total \$15,000 and (c) will total \$12,000, leaving us with \$22,000 in the bank at the end of 2011, which is one or two thousand above previous years. Item (b) has been aided by significant donations from Marty Blume and Chun Lin in support of FHP speakers.

Our funds include two student travel grants of \$600 yet to be awarded. The problem is that a student must be presenting a paper in an FHP session, which isn't common. We should remember to urge FHP professors to make known the possibility of FHP student travel support well in advance of the abstract deadlines, to drum up involvement by students.

APS funding of forums: up until this year, APS gave forums a portion of dues money according to a formula based on the number of FHP members; the formula has been given in earlier Minutes. Because of the very different sources of income and needs of different forums, APS has begun giving money only to forums that have less than \$50,000 in the bank on January 1 of the year. Those forums get \$20,000 on January 1, and others get none, though special requests

are entertained. FHP ended 2010 with \$29,645 in regular accounts (i.e., not counting the endowment), so FHP received \$20,000 on January 1, 2011. Our planned 2011 expenses will easily keep us below the \$50,000 threshold.

Attachment 2

Report on the FHP 2011 Programs (Martin Blume, Program Committee Chair and Peter Pesic, Co-Chair)

The 2011 Programs began work in 2010 with the appointment of a Program Committee* by the FHP Chair Dan Kleppner. We received input on possible sessions at that time from the members as well as from others. By email and conference call we narrowed the choices, and ultimately focused on what became this year's program.

We were allotted three sessions for each of the March and April meetings. The two meetings differ in that each session at the March meeting has five 36-minute slots for speakers while the April meeting has only three such slots. Additional sessions have been arranged by cooperating with other units.

The Chairs then had to find organizers, chairs, and in some cases speakers for each of the sessions, a not inconsiderable task. We also had to find sources of funding for travel support for a number of the speakers. This was done with contributions from several sources, including support for one speaker from the Forum on Industrial and Applied Physics, which we acknowledge with thanks.

We have listed the sessions for both meetings below (the March meeting has of course taken place already, and was a great success, with fine attendance and excellent talks). The April meeting is yet to come, but looks to be on a successful track. Attendees at the EC meeting can judge for themselves.

The links below give considerably more detail about the sessions, including speakers, titles, and abstracts; hence the format of this report.

One further point: In the superconductivity session we had approached Leon Cooper to speak, but he didn't want to travel, especially not to Dallas. We prevailed on him to give a talk before a live audience at Brown University, which he did on December 12th 2010. This was played back at the March meeting, to much acclaim from the audience, a number of whom asked if they could get a copy. This is now available for download at <https://dropbox.brown.edu/download.php?hash=679d1d78>
It lasts 37 minutes, and is worth watching.

March 2011 FHP Session Index

[B3. The History of Superconductivity from its Discovery by Kamerlingh Onnes in 1911](#)

[L8. J. H. Van Vleck: Quantum Theory and Magnetism](#)

[V24. History of Physics and International Programs](#) (Contributed papers)

[X8. Migrations of Physicists](#) (joint with FIP)

April 2011 FHP Session Index

B1. Solvay at One Hundred; Pais Prize Talk (with DPF)

C1. Centennial of the Nuclear Atom

E6. Accelerators for Sub-Atomic Physics: I. History (with DPB)

H13. History of Physics I (Contributed Papers)

J2. Centennial of Superconductivity

T10. History of Physics II (Contributed Papers)

U10. FHP Business Meeting (The Business meeting follows immediately after session T10, in the same room.)

X2. Working with Luis Alvarez (1911-1988)

*2011 Program Committee

Martin Blume, Chair
Peter Petic, Co-Chair
Daniel Kleppner (ex-officio)
Tom Miller (ex-officio)
Gloria Lubkin
Charles Holbrow
Don Howard
Daniel Kenefick
Paul Cadden-Zimansky
Guy Emery

Attachment 3

Forum Councilor Report on APS Council Meeting, 20 November 2010 (Michael Riordan)

The fall 2010 meeting of the APS Council occurred on 20 November 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Long Beach, CA, just before the annual meeting of the APS Division of Fluid Dynamics. Forum Councilor Michael Riordan attended the Council meeting. The following is his report of significant items for FHP attention:

1. Topical Group on the Physics of Climate. The APS Executive Board received two petitions (one of which it had stimulated) to form a new topical group to address the physics of climate

change. A joint organizing committee was thus formed, chaired by Jerome I. Friedman of MIT. It will report back to Council by the April 2011 meeting with a single petition and a proposed set of bylaws. (This action was a response, in part, to a controversy encountered over the past year or more regarding the APS statement on climate change. The Bylaws Committee continues studying the issue of membership involvement in the drafting of APS statements; this issue should be taken up at the next Council meeting with consideration of a new bylaw.)

2. Amendment on International Councilors. Executive Director Kate Kirby noted that a constitutional amendment providing that four of the eight General Councilors must reside outside the United States had passed by a margin of 84% of the APS members who voted. It will begin to take effect at the next APS election.

3. April Meeting. A plenary session on “100 Years of Subatomic Physics” will occur at the April meeting in Anaheim, featuring Steven Weinberg delivering a public lecture.

4. APS Publications. Editor-in-Chief Gene Sprouse reported that construction is now scheduled to begin in April 2011 on the planned expansion of and renovations to the APS publications complex in Ridge, NY, pending approval of permits. He also said that APS will begin publishing a new online, open access journal PRX with a launch date tentatively scheduled for 1 July 2011. He is currently seeking a good editor.

5. Approval of Fellowship Nominations. Council unanimously approved a list of APS Fellows nominated by the various units and submitted by Alan Chodos, including FHP nominees Michael Day, Michel Janssen, David Kaiser, and George Zimmerman.

6. New APS Awards. After substantial discussion (including criticisms voiced by Riordan and others that most of the proposals did not live up to the standards set by APS about a decade ago, when FHP was proposing the Pais Award/Prize), Council voted almost unanimously to approve five new APS awards:

- an award for excellence in undergraduate physics education
- a dissertation award in theoretical particle physics (by DPF)
- the Stanley Corrsin Award for a mid-career physicist in fluid dynamics
- the Landau-Spitzer Award in plasma physics (awarded jointly with EPS)
- the Henry Primakoff Award to a junior-level particle physicist (DPF).

7. New Forum on Outreach and Engaging the Public. After substantial discussion, including the impact on financing of other APS forums that a new forum might have and the potential overlap it would have on FPS and FOE activities, Council voted almost unanimously (two abstentions, including Riordan) to approve establishment of a new Forum on Outreach and Engaging the Public. (APS leaders acknowledged that this proposal had been submitted at the last minute with little opportunity for the leadership of other APS units to consider the impact of and need for the new forum, or to provide input to the process of its formation.)

8. New Executive Board Members. Among other elections, including members of the Panel on Public Affairs, Council elected four of its own members to serve on the APS Executive Board: Nancy Levinger, Nergis Mavalava, Jorge Pullin, and Gay Stewart.

Attachment 4

Report of the Ad Hoc Web Committee (George Zimmerman)

Several events during the 2010-2011 year will make our web-page more attractive and relevant, most of which occurred in 2011.

The front page of the FHP website was redesigned and more obvious links to the FHP Newsletter created. More pictures were added and upcoming FHP sponsored AIP March and April meeting sessions were made more prominent. The revision is still a work in progress and the possibilities of what we would like and what is possible to put on a web, and how it will appear there, are still being explored.

Thanks to careful reading of the various postings, picture gallery, membership and committee listings, etc. by Gloria Lubkin and Tom Miller, and a number of spelling mistakes and name misspellings were corrected. There is a lag between our submission of the corrections and their appearance on the website because the actual posting is done by the APS webmaster.

The pictures taken at the March and April 2010 meetings were posted on the web. There was a delay in the posting of the 2010 presentations from the 2010 FHP sponsored sessions. The delay was caused mainly by the APS-AIP and FHP needing to agree on the wording of a permission document that would permit us to post presentations on our website and to archive the materials at the AIP, Niels Bohr Library and Archives. As will be described in a separate report, at long last a statement that is acceptable to FHP has been approved by APS-AIP.

A mishap occurred at the APS "April" meeting in February. Because of the historic nature of the session "Recollections of Enrico Fermi", APS arranged for the session to be videotaped. Unfortunately this was carried out incompetently and the video record is essentially lost. A mishap also occurred at the 2010 March meeting in Portland, OR. when the staff failed to record the audio of all but one of the sessions. I was able to record 2 presentations of a session on my hand held voice recorder. Thus only one complete session and one partial session will be posted.

Because of delays, we have received only about 50% of the presentations from invited speakers to the 2010 FHP-sponsored sessions. Some of these have already been posted. The others are expected to be posted by the time of the April 2011 meeting.

Attachment 5

Report from the FHP Fellowship Committee, 2010-2011 (Peter Pesic)

During 2010-2011, the members of the Fellowship Committee were:

Robert Arns
Cathryn Carson
Elizabeth Garber

Peter Pesic, chair
Catherine Westfall

A call for nominations was sent to the FHP membership by Dan Kleppner. From the five completed nominations that were received, the committee brought forward the following four candidates for consideration by the Executive Committee:

William Day
Michel Janssen
David Kaiser
George Zimmerman

These four candidates were all granted Fellowship by action of the APS Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Pesic

Attachment 6

FHP Newsletter editor's report to the FHP Executive Committee (Ed Neuenschwander)

1. The Fall 2010 issue of the FHP Newsletter was the third one for which I served as editor. Robert P. Crease recently accepted appointment as editor, starting with the Spring 2012 issue. I look forward to working with Robert throughout the intervening year.

For their many contributions to the Newsletter over the past year I thank the authors of articles; associate editor Don Lemons; members of the editorial board (Benjamin Bederson, Bill Evenson, Michael Riordan); APS staff members Krystal Ferguson and Sara Connors (who do the layout that makes the rest of us look good); the AIP Center for History of Physics; and my wife Rhonda for her patience.

2. Both issues of the 2010 newsletter were distributed on-line <<http://www.aps.org/units/fhp/newsletters/index.cfm>>. Readers have the option of requesting a print copy, and I was given a mailing list containing the addresses of 27 such persons and institutions, including some libraries. For the Fall 2010 issue my university's print shop printed 75 copies which cost \$115 (20 pages per copy, with color). The envelopes (\$4.05) and postage (14 domestic @ \$0.88 = \$12.32, and \$35.92 for 13 foreign) brought the cost for the Fall 2010 print mailings to \$167.29 (not including 1½ to 2 hours of staff time—thanks to Sherri Stipes, SNU Science Division office manager). Had I printed the necessary minimum number of copies (say, 30) the cost of printing would have been about \$50, as done for the Spring 2010 issue, whose total printing and mailing costs were about \$100.

Although I do not wish to set a precedent that obligates future editors, speaking as the chair of the Southern Nazarene University physics department, during my tenure as editor the department will continue contributing the now-modest cost of fulfilling this demand for paper copies.

3. Staple features of FHP Newsletter issues are the reports on FHP-sponsored (and co-

sponsored) sessions at meetings. For the Spring and Fall 2010 issues these included articles describing sessions on the 50th anniversaries of the first lasers (written by Daniel Kleppner) and the prediction of superfluidity in helium-3 (George Zimmerman); memorial sessions celebrating the lives of Enrico Fermi (Gloria Lubkin) and Sam Goudsmit (D.E. Neuenschwander); reports on contributed paper sessions (David Cassidy); secrecy and physics (Daniel Kleppner); and the origins of teaching and research in selected physics departments (Ronald Mickens). Thanks to Michael Riordan, the book review column continues to offer substantial commentary on new resources. Recent contributed articles include a report by Ben Bederson on the activities of the Historic Sites Committee, and a reflective essay by Cameron Reed on teaching the history of the Manhattan Project. Newsletter issues are rounded out with Forum announcements and editorials. I am grateful to everyone who contributes to the writing, proofreading, and correcting of articles and announcements.

If I may make a suggestion, it would be that the task of assigning the authorship of articles about FHP-sponsored sessions be agreed upon and understood by all parties in advance. When an author comes forward immediately after a meeting, article in hand, or a commitment to deliver one, the world is a beautiful place. Sometimes it has been necessary to synthesize an article from the assorted notes of various participants and attendees, speaker abstracts, and archives. Such syntheses I do not mind doing, but I don't want to cut in front of someone who especially wants to write an article. Above all, we do not want any session to go unreported.

I suppose that in the past, session chairs have been presumed to be responsible for drafting reports of their sessions. But the chairperson has so many other immediate concerns to think about during their session. I don't think I could watch the clock, make introductions, and fuss over an errant computer, while simultaneously making a comprehensible set of notes.

Technology can sometimes come to the rescue, with recordings or powerpoints. For another potential model, the Society of Physics Students has a "reporter" program, where student attendees of AIP Member Society meetings write a report of the meeting and forward it to the SPS publications editor. The student reporter gets a byline for their CV (and perhaps a couple hundred bucks to subsidize travel expenses), and the SPS gets an article. Such a concept (perhaps less the subsidy) might be adaptable to the FPH participants and the needs of the newsletter regarding Forum-sponsored sessions.

I thank George Zimmerman for faithfully serving as inexhaustible photographer for FHP-sponsored sessions. I thank again those who have written session articles.

4. With the newsletter distribution now online, page limitations have become a matter of readability and good taste, and not strictly budgetary. At the risk of being too verbose, this may open a wider playing field of possibilities for newsletter content. For instance, during my tenure as editor I would like to include some features that attempt to bring historical physicists to life in ways that go beyond the standard head shot photo. Such images are used in textbooks so typically that, although the students learn what Werner Heisenberg looked like, the photo could have been that of some insurance company executive, for all the notice it receives. Thus are the lively personalities behind the discoveries overlooked. (Quote from one of my students, upon gazing at a photo of Max Planck: "He looks scary." Sorry Max, you were not well served.) Physicists are, in general, not such a dour bunch, although we sometimes come across that way. Even when the images are in black and white, the FHP Newsletter can add some color to the lives behind the names introduced so stiffly in the textbooks. I will float some ideas before my editorial colleagues over the next few weeks.

5. The newsletter's name, "FHP Newsletter" is crisp, functional, and informative. But it does little to entice the reader. Under what circumstances might it be appropriate to launch an effort to come up with a name that would continue to describe newsletter's purpose, and might also stimulate the imaginations of readers and beckons them look inside?

It is an honor to work with the Forum on History of Physics as its newsletter editor.

Respectfully submitted,
Dwight E. (Ed) Neuenschwander

Attachment 7

Report of the Nominating Committee (Gloria Lubkin)

The members of the Nominating Committee were:

Cathryn Carson
Allan Franklin
Peter Galison, APS Representative
Clayton Gearhart
Gloria Lubkin, Chair
Daniel Siegel

A call for nominations was sent to the FHP membership by Dan Kleppner. As a result, we received several nominations. The committee itself generated a considerably larger list, and after a number of e mail exchanges among the committee members, we selected the following candidates:

Vice Chair

Don Howard
Paul Halpern

Executive Committee

Robert Crease
Daniel Kennefick
Robert Romer
Catherine Westfall

The winners of the election were:

Don Howard, who will become Vice-Chair after the April meeting in Anaheim, and

Robert Crease and Catherine Westfall, who will become Members of the Executive Committee

after the Anaheim meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Gloria Lubkin

Attachment 8

Departmental History Initiative (Robert Arns)

The APS Forum on the History of Physics has undertaken various efforts in recent years to encourage the recording and dissemination of local physics histories. Histories of academic physics departments have been the principal focus for these efforts. It is likely that the production of such documents and their availability, both locally and in the Niels Bohr Library and Archive, will continue to be of value to the physics community.

A letter was sent to each U.S. physics department chairperson early in 2009 encouraging their support and participation. We stressed that we are not asking them to take on the task of writing entire histories personally, but rather to note that effective departmental histories often represent the gathering together of material collected and summarized by a succession of authors at different times. We also suggested that retiring faculty members be encouraged to leave behind a vita and comments on their accomplishments, from their perspectives on their careers. About twenty new items (departmental histories or parts thereof) were received and deposited in the Niels Bohr Library and Archive.

Most of these reports were also made available through departmental websites. Websites have become important as means of publicizing faculty accomplishments and are useful for attracting new faculty members and potential students. As a result, we also noted that a small number of older historical materials had been removed from internet access, for example because “they pertain to areas of research no longer active in the department”, or are “not up to the quality of our current website,” or “no longer of interest.”

Some outstanding historical material is contained in the Histories that have been collected to date and the encouragement of academic departmental histories should be continued, and expanded, perhaps with the benefit of some new approaches. Our last “Call for Physics Departmental Histories” appeared in the History of Physics Newsletter, Vol. XI, No. 2, Spring 2010, p. 13.

The committee also discussed ways to encourage the writing and collecting of historical accounts of physics research and practice in industrial laboratories, national and international research organizations, and at other sites outside of academia. We did not find a good way to get the word out or have a good sense of how to motivate and organize these additional efforts.

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Attachment 9

Request for Preserving Unit Histories (Tom Miller)

Most APS Units do not post lists of former officers and Executive Committee members on their websites, which means that this information basically gets lost.

This message is a request that Units add to their *Governance* or *Executive Committee* tab a link called *Past Officers and Executive Committees* where names and dates are tabulated. See <http://www.aps.org/units/fhp/governance/officers/past.cfm> for an example, and the websites of DNP, DPB, DPOLY, FED, FIP, OSAPS, SESAPS, and TSAPS, plus DAP (past officers), DBP & DMP (past Chairs and Sec'y-Treas). Websites of Topical Groups were not searched in compiling this list.

Researching data for such a list may seem daunting where records are sparse, so it is suggested that the *Past Officers and Executive Committees* link be set up with only those names in recent memory, and then added to as information becomes available – probably coming from those who once served and wish to be recognized.

Furthermore, it is suggested that Units consider posting a short history of the Unit on their website. DAMOP was the first division (with two name changes since its founding in 1943); it would be interesting to read how the idea of a division for electron physics came about, and who carried it out. (There's a distinguished list of Chairs for the division over the years, but apparently not written down anywhere.)

See <http://www.aps.org/units/fhp/history/index.cfm> for an example.

Thanks for listening. (Tom Miller, millertf@bc.edu, April 2011), FHP

Attachment 10

Report on the APS Unit Convocation, April 15, 2011

Each spring the APS hosts a gathering of unit officers. This year FHP was represented by the Vice-Chair Elect Don Howard, the newly-elected at-large EC member Bob Crease, and Secretary-Treasurer Tom Miller. The Convocation allows officers to meet with APS staff and each other and is especially useful for incoming officers, since they will be dealing with APS staff for several years. The photo (right) shows Bob Crease conferring with IT staffer Sara Connors about improving the FHP website.



The Convocation format in 2011 was well designed. We were welcomed by APS Executive Officer Kate Kirby and President Barry Barish, then given by talks by Treasurer Joe Serene and Public Affairs Director Mike Lubell. There's not space to detail these presentations except for a few points: (a) the APS journals are now dominated by non-US scientists, particularly from Western Europe – even the refereeing; (b) online APS journals are now offered free to US public libraries and to high schools – all they have to do is to fill out an online form; (c) Mike's results of political surveys were interesting (“ban the term ‘basic’ research from your lexicon; say

‘scientific research’ instead”); (d) the only research areas that voters would protect are energy and medical. These talks totaled just over an hour. Then we broke up into groups in different rooms: sections, divisions, topical groups, and forums. APS staff rotated among the group rooms to answer questions. This arrangement worked well because forum officers tended to have very similar questions and concerns. The photo to the left includes Don Howard on the far left (taken



during a break when a third of the people were out of the room). There was a good mix of incoming and incumbent officers present.

Here are some random points that came out of meetings with APS staff. A couple of units (FPS, FED) complained about the new funding prescription (if you have more than \$50k in the

bank on December 31, you get no new funding from APS on January 1). They were told that the APS has to be careful about cash on hand because of IRS rules for nonprofit organizations, and some units like FGSA had balances that seemed to grow without limit – they weren’t spending money on anything. Complainers were reminded that requests for special projects would be considered. Along that line, the IRS restricts APS to \$1M for lobbying, with an additional \$0.5M maximum for grassroots lobbying by members. W8 or W9 statements are needed for travel grants, even if at or below the \$600 maximum, because it’s too hard to get hold of the recipients if an end-of-year audit requires. We learned that all EC members have access to online accounting statements if the ST sends them the URL.

An FPS officer asked how many APS members have signed up for the new FOEP. The answer was “about 300.” The follow-up question was, “Which units have lost members as a result?” Answer: it will take a year to know, because you can sign up for a forum during the year without being charged until your next anniversary.

Six Flags amusement parks have Physics Days (this year May 13 is common) where you learn some physics behind the rides. Outreach items are available online.

Sara Conners can provide hit numbers for online newsletters if e-mailed (done). A demand for posting blogs (which allow responses) has arisen, but one must check with Sara first because APS wants strict control over blogs and responses. They won’t be on the unit website, but can be linked. APS is also said to be on Facebook, Tweeter, and LinkedIn.

The meetings staff said that APS contracts audio-visual needs with a private company (not the hotels), but that contract doesn’t prevent FHP from videotaping their own sessions. Just be sure to get permission from speakers. The APS contract runs about \$100 for audio recording of a session, to a few \$k for videotaping. There was discussion among officers about many parallel sessions and the unpredictability of attendance at forum sessions, but, of course, there’s seemingly no solution to this problem. An FPS person said that one of their sessions was moved to a different slot without telling them, which caused travel issues for speakers. (Vinaya said he’d look into it, that it shouldn’t have happened.)

Amy Flatten handed out flyers on the Beller/Marshak travel grants. She said that these are “underutilized.” Miller told her that there was an impression that the grants are aimed only at

the science sessions. She said, no, forums should apply even if the speaker is a non-physicist. Applications are made in November and decisions announced in December. Since application may fail, units cannot make commitments to speakers unless they have enough of their own money available to cover the travel. Flyers were also given out on cooperative programs with Brazil and India that offer travel support for lecturers going to universities or institutions.

The Convocation ended with a question and answer session with Kate Kirby and Barry Barish.

Minutes of the annual FHP business meeting, May 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Forum Chair Dan Kleppner. A dozen or so FHP members were in attendance (mostly Executive Committee members), which is more than usual because the Business Meeting immediately followed an FHP contributed session. FHP Chair Dan Kleppner gave a summary of EC discussions and actions. Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Miller gave a report on FHP finances. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

The photo to the right shows those present who were willing to be photographed. Rear, L-R: Paul Halpern, Clayton Gearhart, Peter Pesic, Michael Riordan, Bob Arns, Tom Miller, and Felix Smith. Seated, L-R, Marty Blume, Dan Kleppner, and George Zimmerman.



Left: Felix Smith, Ed Gerjuoy, and Tom Miller.