

FPS Executive Committee Conference Call, Friday, Feb. 6, 2009

Attendees: Gary White, Phil Taylor, Don Prosnitz, Brian Schwartz, Charles Ferguson, Benn Tannenbaum, Mark Goodman, Cameron Reed, Andrew Zwicker, Barbara Levi, Pushpa Bhat
Absent: Lawrence Krauss and Pete Zimmerman (presumably on FPS business on POPA, in Washington, D.C.), Ruth Howes

Scribe: Pushpa Bhat

The meeting was called to order by Andrew Zwicker. The proceedings were as follows --

1. SPS Student Fellowships: (Gary White) Gary reported that the summer program of student fellowships supported by FPS has completed two successful years and is in the third year running. Last year's student Erin Owen, an undergraduate from East Michigan State University, did her project on "Light Pipes Energy Savings Calculator", plans to present the work at the APS Ohio section meeting in spring and at the AAPT meeting. This year, the application deadline was Dec. 15th. There are six applicants this year including a couple of grad students and expect that 2 students will be awarded fellowships. SPS has a nice web site on the fellowship.
<http://www.spsnational.org/programs/awards/fellowships.htm>
Gary suggested Ernie Barringer, the mentor from last year as the SPS representative on this year's committee to evaluate applications. Need two volunteers from FPS. Don and Andrew have volunteered to be on the committee (or will find someone). Gary wants to set up a conference call for the committee next week. Barbara is going to track the student work and try to incorporate articles in the P&S newsletter.
2. Welcome new P&S Editor: We welcomed our new P&S editor Cameron Reed from Alma College. Barbara introduced and welcomed Cameron and reminded us that we would like to get an Assistant Editor. Pushpa suggested posting an ad/solicitation prominently in the next Newsletter for volunteers or nominations. Cameron reported that the April Newsletter is shaping up well. He is looking for statements by Andrew and Don as out-going and in-coming chairs, respectively. Barbara reminded that we need to put more News items from the Forum in the Newsletter, such as, info about our new Fellows, SPS fellowships, etc., reports on what is happening in POPA (that is you, Lawrence!)
3. Treasurer's Report: (Pushpa Bhat) Pushpa deferred the full report to the meeting in Denver, summarizing that the current balance is about \$48.5K, we spent about \$11K for Newsletter printing & postage, \$10.3K on meeting expenses last year. We will do fine with the budget and have a carry-over, but it would be good to have some sort of

guidance regarding meeting expenses and have some pre-determined allocation (or cap) each year. This took us in to the discussion on the next topic of the annual meetings.

4. March/April Meetings: (All)
 - a. Expenses: Pushpa reported the estimates of speaker registration fee+ travel expenses for the meetings. March: \$2375, (eight speakers are non-APS, non-physicists and need not register if they attend only Forum meetings) April: all the numbers are not in. The current estimate is \$3070. Travel support for Al and Jeff and possibly some of the executive committee members are not included. Pushpa will put together a spread-sheet and send it around. (She also suggested that it is useful to come up with some general guidance and procedure for FPS support for sessions in the future. Try to discuss this at the Denver executive committee meeting.) We are not paying for the awardees' travel. APS/endowment will take care of that. Andrew and Barbara are working on getting a custom-made plaque for Al and Jeff for recognizing them at the Denver meeting.
 - b. Program: Don was congratulated for the impressive program that is put together. Some abstracts are still due. Don and others working on it. Pushpa will contact Christine to set up the executive committee meeting on May 3rd, possibly in the morning. Don will set up an FPS business meeting for Monday evening after the awards session. This needs to be included in the meeting program. The awardees' dinner is also planned for Monday evening. Andrew will invite the awardees to the dinner. April meeting of 2010 will actually be in February, in Washington D.C. We need to discuss this also at the executive committee meeting in Denver.
5. Congressional Visits/ APS unit convocation, Feb. 27-28: Don, Mark and Pushpa had plans to attend. Pushpa (and Don?) not absolutely sure yet. Mark is in the area and will attend.
6. Committees: Various committees need to be set up. Shelly Johnston has requested names of APS Fellowship Committee members for 2009. Charles, as the Chair-elect next year, will be the Fellowship committee chair. He will send Pushpa and Andrew the names of other committee members. We could get one of last year's fellows on it. Also, we should get one of the last year's awardees on the Awards committee (required by by-laws). The nominating committee membership should be discussed at the Denver meeting.