

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Attendance:

Alexis, Brock, Katie, Laura, Vikram, David, Crystal (APS), Eric, Maria, Kelly

Agenda:

- I. Review of past events:
 - a. CAM13 (Laura)
- II. Updates from current projects and other committees:
 - a. Election (Report sent in by Renee)
 - b. Newsletter (Vikram)
 - i. Need to nominate new newsletter editor
 - c. Facebook (Kelly)
 - d. Travel Award (Maria or Alexis)
 - e. Advertising poster/magnets (Alexis)
 - f. Updates from APS student representative to AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition (Vikram)
 - g. Update from APS Counselor Meeting (Their meeting is happening after ours, so Eric will send out an e-mail update.)
- III. Future Events:
 - a. March and April Meeting (Brock)

Minutes:

- I. *Review of past events:*
 - a. *CAM13 – Canadian American Mexican graduate student conference (Laura)*
 - 1) Was in Canada this year. Will be in Mexico in 2 years.
 - 2) 16 students applied for travel grants, 13 were able to attend due to visa issues.
 - 3) We have some money leftover from this.
 - 4) Everything went really well. All the four speakers were great.
- II. *Updates from current projects and other committees:*
 - a. *Election (Report sent in by Renee)*
 - 1) We've been really struggling to get nominations this year.
 - a. Why? Do we have a plan for the future?
 - b. Response has been that people are unsure of
 - i. the benefits to students who serve on the committee
 - ii. the time commitment required
 - iii. etc.
 - c. Possibly the surveys about us and our positions might help out a bit in this arena. But, will be too late for this election.
 - 2) Surveys

- a. Idea is to serve as an introduction to the executive committee members and our positions.
 - b. We have all answered the questions they just need to be posted.
 - c. All at once, or 1-by-1. Leaning towards all at once.
 - d. Contact Chelsea (content strategist). We can just send her a word file with all the information and explanation and she will format it nicely in a way that works for our purposes.
 - e. We think we want this on the webpage and have a link on facebook as well.
- 3) Currently we have 5 nominations for member-at-large, and one each for chair elect and treasurer.
- a. This is not enough to run an election according to the by-laws.
 - b. We need 4 for member-at-large and 2 each for both chair and treasurer.
 - c. Ammending the by-laws is not simple at all according to Crystal.
 - d. Instead much simpler to make a final push to get two more nominations before Monday the 24th of November. → contact Renee
- 4) Elections will run for 6 weeks through the holiday season.

b. Newsletter (Vikram)

- 1) Thanks all for their help the past 2 years he has been editor.
- 2) The December issue is currently in preparation. If anyone has any questions or contributions they would like to add, they should contact Vikram.
- 3) There has been a really good response recently.
- 4) Eric will write one for the December edition as there is still space.

i. Need to nominate a new editor

- 1) Vikram will compose a 1-page document describing the process and important details as well as help to introduce the new editor to the APS publicity department staff who help compose the final PDF.
- 2) Newsletters are in July and December, with special editions in March and April for the meetings.
- 3) Marilena interested in the newsletter editor position.
 - a. Practice with Vikram initially (particularly for the special editions), and perhaps an incoming member-at-large will also join in.
 - b. Eric is interested in writing some articles.

c. Facebook (Kelly)

- 1) Continuing to accrue new members
- 2) Lots of posting
- 3) Not many likes, comments, or interaction though.

- a. Perhaps ask questions to encourage discussion.
- 4) Talk to Chelsea to get some ideas.

d. Travel Award (Maria or Alexis)

- 1) Are we getting a lot of applicants?
 - a. Hard to say, typically, as with everything, applications come in close to the deadline.
- 2) FAQ on the website are really helpful and prevent unnecessary work responding to emails.
- 3) Recipients are posted to the website and will be/are announced in the newsletters.
- 4) 6 travel grants per quarter @ \$500 each.
- 5) We are getting approximately 30 applicants per quarter, which is pretty good.
- 6) Obviously there is an increase before the March and April meetings.
 - a. Perhaps we weight the number awarded based on that fact.
 - b. Good support for that proposal.
 - c. Crystal mentioned they get many phonecalls inquiring about the undergraduate awards that end in disappointment due to the undergraduate limitation.

e. Advertising poster/magnets (Alexis)

- 1) Physics poetry word magnets are the giveaway.
- 2) We should all be getting giveaways, as should other members.
- 3) How many? – Alexis will look into this.
- 4) How are they distributed between members and non-members?
 - a. 2 separate letters
 - i. How to get involved in FGSA?
 - ii. How to join FGSA?
- 5) Are the magnets going to both members and non-members? – Alexis will look into this.

f. Updates form APS student representative to AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition (Vikram)

- 1) Vikram is the APS student representative for this subgroup of the AAAS
- 2) Addresses the relationship between science and human rights.
- 3) He has composed a 2-page plan of action for how he will represent the APS student section in this AAAS coalition.
 - a. It discusses how to educate physics students on this topic, including both graduate students and postdocs.
 - b. Step 1 is a survey
 - i. 18 questions long

- ii. sent to FGSA and FIP (Forum for International Physics)
- iii. We should look into sending it to APS student members not just those members of FGSA.
 - 1. We can't just send an email out to all student members. Trish said they are survey saturated.
 - 2. Instead why don't we send out to all those people who signed up for webinars previously. They signed an agreement allowing APS to contact them so it should be fine.
- iv. Survey ends in mid-February.
- v. We should look into adding a link to the survey not only on our facebook page, but also that of APS general.
- vi. Send to large physics departments.
- c. Step 2 is using the results of the survey to create focus webinars, talks and campus events addressing the issues.
 - i. APS is very happy to help with these potential webinars.
- g. *Update from APS Counselor Meeting (Their meeting is happening after ours, so Eric will send out an e-mail update.)*

- 1) Eric will send an email update after their meeting Saturday the 23rd of November.

IV. *Future Events:*

a. *March and April Meeting (Brock)*

- 1) March meeting
 - a. Session on postdoctoral fellowships with some previous winners as well as some individuals employed on selection committees.
 - b. Problem is that no one has confirmed attendance due to budget issues.
 - c. We need to find substitutes in case the worse happens.
 - i. We likely have one Fulbright sub.
 - ii. Likely need to find others as well.
 - d. Was originally the first session of the meeting
 - i. Bad because lots of people arrive later
 - ii. No publicity at the graduate student reception.
 - e. Switched it to the only other available session...the last session
 - i. Allows for publicity.
 - ii. Not good either people leave before the end.
 - f. Need to look at ancillary sessions/satellite meeting places and times.
 - i. Speak to Vinaya to put FGSA sessions on the list
 - ii. Look into meeting after the student reception on Tuesday but before the last days Fri and Sat. (Wed. or Thursday?)
 - iii. If submit this request before the deadline will likely get the time requested.

- 2) April meeting
 - a. Session: Non-traditional careers in Physics
 - i. Perhaps speak to Megan Anzenc to be a part?
 - 1. Wrote all the interviews about non-traditional careers
 - a. How to self advocate
 - b. How to find out about non-traditional
 - ii. Small liberal arts school person (Brock)
 - 1. Guy at Gettysburg College still interested
 - a. Teaching for a few years
 - b. Fairly young.
 - iii. Someone from National Lab (Laura) – waiting to hear back.
 - b. Possible lunch with Neil deGrasse Tyson
 - i. Expensive, ~\$50/person according to Jodi
 - ii. How many people? 50 for us, Jodi match for 100
 - iii. Cap the number of people.
 - iv. Day? He's giving the planetary address, likely that day April 7th
 - v. Yes, we want.
 - c. Lunch with undergrads every year.
 - i. Panel of grads answer questions, typically 5 or 6
 - ii. Very informal
 - iii. Sunday ~1.5 hrs
 - iv. Talking about graduate school.