

Forum on Physics and Society
Executive Committee Meeting
April 20, 2002
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Attending: Andy Sessler, Laurie Fathe, Lee Collins, Bo Hammer, Ed Gerjuoy, Michael Rosenthal Tom McIlrath, Phil Goldstone, Pete Zimmerman, Judy Franz (for a portion of the meeting)

Meeting was called to order by Bo Hammer at 9:41 a.m.

1. Land Mine Detection Study Proposal (Sessler)

Sessler and **Surajit Sen** have written a proposal (previously circulated to the Executive Committee) on the **detection of land mines**. There is a planned session for the AAAS meeting and the 2003 April APS meeting in Philadelphia.

Currently, the primary way to find land mines is via metal detectors – 100:1 false positives. Need a breakthrough in technology. Several existing reports exist – JASON report from '96 is particularly good. This new proposal can bring things up to date, determine progress since '96, etc.

What is the role of FPS? Endorse it and pass it along as a full APS study is one possibility.

How much would it cost? Estimated to be \$265k though there was some discussion as to whether this was too low an estimate.

Questions raised during the discussion included: Where would money come from? What would be process of getting APS to buy in?

(McIlrath) Go to POPA first get their support, then to Council. Council will be conservative and what to know why should APS be involved.

(Gerjuoy) also believes that POPA is the way to go...there will reluctance to endorse a new study due to impending Boost Phase study. Really need enthusiastic endorsement from POPA.

Rosenthal asked if the deliverables are clear? Who is the intended audience?

(McIlrath) Will it do anything? Will it really make a difference?

There was a general agreement that it is a good thing to do.

Sessler stated that he hoped that one of the outcomes of the study would be to stimulate R&D funding.

Goldstone – Why will funding agencies decide to give money? What is the strategy to make this happen?

Gerjuoy – thinks argument that APS is an unique body to carry out this study can be important in getting funding agencies to agree to give money.

Hammer – Where does this go from here? Next steps will be to make the strategy more specific, work the politics.

Rosenthal – don't forget it's more than detection – detonation is crucial.

Rosenthal will offer as much advice as he can

Sessler to follow-up on proposal, rewrite, continue to make contacts, build support.

2. Officer's manual (Sessler)

Need much more input from all members of the Executive Committee, will be very helpful document.

Not ready to go yet.

Logical that Past-Chair take over from Sessler and update.

Agreed that maintaining the manual is the responsibility of the Past-Chair

All changes/updates should now be passed on to the current Past-Chair (Bo Hammer).

3. Approval of minutes of 2/8/02 Teleconference (Hammer)

Approved

3a. Action Items from 2/8/02 meeting

Action 1: Slake said not likely to get an early copy of Boost Phase study to determine whether FPS could be involved.

Action 2: FPS election to POPA – Council approved FPS member to POPA – FPS can elect this member. Must get membership approval now.

Must have ballot – change in bylaws and 2) vote for representative

Ken Cole wants to know by Sept. who is new member of POPA.

Bo will work with Al S. and Marc Sher.

Why not do it all electronically ? (Sessler)

Agreed to do this special POPA election purely electronically (will get announcement in next P&S, June)

Need to update Nominating committee

Candidates for POPA representative will be Aviva, Pete, Barbara, Al

Rosenthal – should have a standardized procedure for how to have electronic ballots – email alerts, how many? Announcement in newsletter, reminder from Chair.

By-laws state how this should proceed.

Action 3: Ad-hoc committee to be formed to study electronic vs. paper of P&S

Laurie to appoint this

Action 4: Libraries – Al asked for list of libraries from APS, has not gotten a response
Contact person at APS Trish ? at membership office or Barbara Hicks

Action 5: link to P&S from “Journals” of APS – not approved. Offer to change front page link that says “units” to “units/newsletters” good start but have to work on how this will occur

Action 6: Bo requested more names for Fellowship

4. Forum Councillor Report (Gerjuoy)

Two new task forces – countering terrorism – no one from FPS currently on task force, would have been nice to have FPS involvement

task force to look at topical groups – merits, etc.

APS statement on DOD funding of R&D. Concern that they are getting away from funding basic research

Taskforce on Prizes and Awards – agreement that uniformity is needed, all new prizes must have \$10,000 minimum. Must increase endowment.

FPS only offers awards so this is not an issue.

5. Program Chair Report (Fathe)

Good feedback from March meeting sessions -- On Communicating with Congress and Climate Change

Brendan suggested one on Outreach for next March

Increase number of speaker's programs to reach out to more members – reach out to APS for help, but also to Divisions. We need to take the lead on making this happen

Could use a template on how to do this.

Sessions on how to do outreach to schools

Possible Sessions in '03

Economic impact of R&D

Outreach

Landmines

Other suggestions much appreciated – send email to Sessler

6. Fellowship Committee (Sessler)

Chair passed to Rosenthal from Sessler. Ten possible nominations already on list

7. Burton/Szilard Awards (Fathe)

Need nominations, Laurie will send out an email requesting. Must increase effectiveness with personal contact.

8. Michelson Award (Hammer)

DPP has administered it but it must give up control. We are the natural group to administer this. There is some overlap perhaps with Burton/Szilard but should not be a problem to distinguish between the two.

Bo will send out memo to DPP from Sessler

9. Financial Report (Post-Zwicker)

We are in good shape due to reducing the number of printed newsletters. Currently, we have \$17,781.49 in the bank. That includes approximately \$6,000 carried over from the last fiscal year. We should expect to carry over an additional \$6,000 each year.

Must begin the discussion of what do to with this money. Seed money for Sessler's proposal? Money to update our web site? Archive newsletter? Will discuss during next teleconference.

10. P&S Subscriptions to Non-FPS Members (Saperstein submitted electronically)

There are 304 such subscriptions listed, 274 in the US, 14 in Canada, the rest distributed. Looking at the addresses, 280 are definitely libraries - college, school or corporate research lab. The remaining 24 individual names may represent other libraries, publications or organizations, people affiliated with some AIP organization, or just interested people. Major concern should be with the 280 libraries, offering place on their shelves for browsers who may - regularly or occasionally - hit upon P&S. We should be sure that the printed editions always contain the TOC for the previous web edition. To go beyond this - printing up, and mailing, 304 paper copies of the URL editions - would entail significant cost and effort by somebody at APS or within FPS. Must judge whether or not such resources should be expended, assuming they are available to us.

11. Endorsement of Society of Risk Analysis meeting

The Society of Risk Analysis asked APS to be co-sponsor for its upcoming World Congress. POPA concurred in APS being a non-funding co-sponsor (the third option) and passed this to FPS for consideration. If FPS approves, it will be sent to the APS Executive Council for final approval.

Motion to endorse the meeting and send it to the APS Executive Council was approved.

12. Other Business (All)

Need to do better job of letting members know of issues of relevance, upcoming conferences, etc. Should be the job of Sect/Treas.

Must send out a membership request for help with this. Must also make sure to do this prudently so that this type of email alert isn't ignored/deleted

Our web page is not current, updated rarely. Must contact APS to find out how to make sure this is corrected. (Post-Zwicker) Should we host/manage our own site?

Received a \$30 check from a non-member for newsletter. Must verify that he is on the mailing list. (Post-Zwicker)

Next teleconference of the Executive Committee will be June 6, 2002 at 2:00 pm EST. Dial-in number to be announced at a later date.

The Chair was officially passed from Hammer to Fathe.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Post-Zwicker, Secretary/Treasurer