

Forum on Physics and Society (FPS) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2013  
APS April Meeting, Denver Colorado

Present in Denver: Valerie Thomas, Pushpalatha Bhat, Andrew Zwicker, Laura Berzak Hopkins, Lowell Brown, Pierce Corden, Norman Gelfand, Kate Kirby, Lawrence Krauss, Mike Lubell, Phil Taylor, Douglas Wright.

Present by Phone: Benn Tannenbaum (until 8:40), Tina Kaarsberg, Micah Lowenthal

Absent: Philip 'Michael' Tuts, Arian Pregoner

8:11 am Meeting begins and Minutes of previous ExCom meeting approved unanimously by voice vote.

Pushpalatha Bhat presented the Chair's report.

She began with a review of Committee memberships. The Nominations Committee membership is first since elections should be in October-November time frame with results before Christmas. If a committee chair can serve for 3 years and since Tony Fainberg has served for 2, maybe he would be willing to serve an additional year. Phillip Taylor checked the by-laws and said that the Chair of Nomination Committee is 2-year term. Tony can continue as member but someone else needs to chair.

The Awards and Fellowship Committees are normally chaired by the incoming vice chair of FPS so now it is Arian Pregoner. FPS 'quota' for Fellows is about 8 according to our membership numbers.

Valerie Thomas will select the Program Committee.

Tina Kaarsberg's job is to keep track of who is on the committees.

Pushpalatha Bhat then suggested organizing a Task Force for events such as the Physics of Sustainable Energy workshops. She noted that AIP had converted the proceedings of previous workshops to a book. She suggests we put a link to that and subsequent books on the FPS on web site. The "submit your input" link is now active.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report presented by outgoing S/T Benn Tannenbaum. He noted that FPS is doing well with \$50K at beginning of year. \$15-20K expenses per year. Spending has generally included student awards, prize dinner at April meeting, and travel. Kaarsberg asks about prize endowment and Benn notes that both Prizes are

endowed and that the endowment and meeting income come to \$3600/year \$20,000/year or below.

Valerie Thomas initiated discussion on participatory activities.

Norman Gelfand suggested that the Physics and Society newsletter be put on the website in a format for Kindle or Nook. Costs maybe \$100? [Tina as S/T will follow up.] He also said webpage should have an index of past newsletters linked to the table of contents. Can we get a doi or searchable header for each article?

Kate Kirby – Discussed strategic plan. APS is almost at 50K members. The journals are in good shape.

Mike Lubell gave an Inside the Beltway view of budget, sequestration etc.

Lubell [and Phil Taylor?] also discussed new POPA studies – nuclear radiological detection, and nuclear reactor extension, US-Russian agreements on non-strategic nuclear warheads. POPA asked NRC to look at new technologies for isotope separation with respect to non-proliferation.

POPA now is planning to address the issue of climate change. There will be a new IPCC report in late November 2013, after which POPA will begin its activity.