

# Minutes of the FPS Executive Committee Meeting

At the APS April Meeting in Denver, CO, May 3, 2009

Attendance: Andrew Zwicker, Dan Prosnitz, Benn Tannenbaum, David Harris, Barbara Levi, Pete Zimmerman, Pushpa Bhat By phone: Charles Ferguson, Bo Hammer, Brian Schwartz, Lawrence Krauss, Johnathan Wertele

The meeting was called to order by Andrew Zwicker, who presided over the meeting as his last duty as the outgoing chair of FPS.

## (1) Report on the activities of the APS council (Bo Hammer)

Bo shared the good news that he had been elected as the Assoc. Executive Officer for AAPT and was congratulated.

The APS council had just met in Denver prior to the commencement of the annual meeting. The APS membership has now exceeded 47,000; student membership continues to grow. The APS council has released the report on Energy Efficiency Study (chaired by Burt Richter). There is a new topical group being formed on Energy Research & Applications. Bo also mentioned APS efforts on science education outreach, committee on informing the public, and getting more member input on the public awareness.

## (2) News from APS (Mike Lubell)

Mike Lubell briefed us on a number of issues discussed at POPA and an update on science budgets. Among the issues being explored at POPA are the scoping out of the Smart Power Grid, Carbon Capture (has completed fact-finding and is starting to assemble material) nuclear arsenal downsizing (one meeting held). The Federal Government is making progress in disseminating as well as collecting consumer info in the energy arena. Home audits have shown that LEAD-certified buildings are less efficient than non-LEAD ones. Energy efficiency labeling will be more aggressively pursued by DOE.

Mike briefed us about funding for science infrastructure mostly from the stimulus bill -- DOE Lab infrastructure improvements, 12 GeV upgrade at JLab etc. There are problems for NSF and NIH in the stimulus funding scenario. NSF has \$3b for instrumentation and large projects, \$25b for research grants, and \$16b for real lab stuff. Problem of applying stimulus money for grants -- Average new grants ~3-5 years. Possibility of \$500M shortfall in 2012. 2009 budget ok. DOE got a 19% increase, NSF 7%.

Judy mentioned the APS climate study and that APS statement was revisited and revised. She also mentioned the new APS topical group on energy research and applications.

There was some discussion on membership – especially retention of younger physicists during post-doctoral years and later.

This is Judy's last year as the Executive Officer. Her successor will take over in late July.

Judy said that she will do everything possible to support our public Town Hall meeting next year and help us get Steven Chu or Steven Koonin.

### 3) Annual Meetings (Brian Schwartz)

Brian reported that the March meeting sessions went well.

There were discussions on preparing for next year's meetings. Brian is going to take responsibility for the March meeting again next year. Charles, as the chair-elect this year, is overall responsible for the program. For the April meeting in February, in D.C., the following suggestions were made: (1) Andrew and David will organize a session on physics of Art. Pushpa is planning to organize a public town hall meeting and another session with the physicist politicians. Need to have a program committee meeting soon and produce a calendar for what needs to be done.

### 4) Fellowship and Award Committees

A brief discussion ensued. Previous fellows and awardees will be asked to serve on this year's committees. Last year's vice-chair of a committee becomes the chair this year.

Patricia Lewes (who was absent) for the Burton Forum and JeanLoz for Szilard award committees. Our new Exec Cmte member Jessica Clark will be asked to serve on the fellowship committee.

### 5) FPS Budget

Pushpa reported on the budget. As of the end of March, we have \$73k in the bank. Revenues for 2008 (excluding Energy Study) was \$28.6K. Expenses (excluding energy study) were \$27k. Meeting fee waivers \$4.4k. Overall we are doing ok.

### 6) P&S Newsletter

Our new editor Cameron Reed was present. July newsletter is now taking shape.