



**APS Forum on Education  
Executive Committee Meeting (teleconference)  
Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 11 AM EST**

**Voting Members Present:** Lila Adair, Peter Collings, Noah Finkelstein, David Haase, Laird Kramer, Sam Lightner, Ernie Malamud, Bruce Mason, Chandrlekha Singh, Gay Stewart, Amber Stuver, John Thompson, Stamatias Vokos, Larry Woolf

**Non-voting Members Present:** Ted Hodapp, Tom Rossing

Meeting was called to order at 10: 03 CT  
New members were introduced and welcomed.  
Minutes from the Nov 12 teleconference were approved.

## **REPORTS**

### **Secretary-Treasurer's Report:** Bruce

The FEd budget is doing very well, better than anyone desired at our previous budget discussions. In the coming year there will be conference support, \$3000, for FFER. Peter noted that there will probably be only \$800 in fee waivers or other support for speakers at the March and April meetings. Ted reported that the APS budget is getting cut significantly due to the reserves being down by 30%. This means a reduction in interest income. Noah suggested that we need to plan our activities in the future in light of these reductions. The committee felt we should use the member survey to help with this planning and that it is important that we be proactive.

### **March and April sessions:** Peter

The sessions for the March and April meetings haven't changed from the last report. We have filled our allotments, and have several joint sessions.

**FEd Events:** The official FEd events will be at the April (Denver) meeting. The current schedule is to have the FEd reception and business meeting on Saturday, May 2, immediately after a FEd session. The reception can start around 4:45 and end by 5:30, before the APS welcome reception. The only other option was Monday evening, but this was not a good time for the award recipients and Fellows. Bruce will arrange the food and other logistics with the APS.

The Executive Committee meeting is on Sunday, May 3. It is scheduled to start at 11:30 with lunch. There is a conflict with a session that goes until 12:30. We will start the meeting with introductions and reports at noon, and others can join as soon as they can.

## **NEWSLETTERS: Ernie**

Ernie is editing the Summer issue. It will focus on the FEd talks given at the March and April meetings. The deadline for articles is June 15 so that it will be available for the AAPT meeting.

Ernie asked about the importance of putting in links to all of the talks. It was felt that this is a good thing as long as it doesn't take too much time. Larry did this last year by interacting with all the program chairs. He did the award session and one other. The session chairs just needed to provide a simple summary of the session and ask speakers about either providing talks for the APS web site or links if they are posting the talks themselves. It would be a good idea to contact the speakers and get links before the meeting, if possible.

Chandralekha had ideas for possible themes for articles or future newsletters. Two of these were information about NSF education grants and about education components on other NSF grants. Euginia Etkina may be a good source for this information.

Ernie wants editors, particularly those not on the FEd Executive Committee. This used to be a regular non-voting position on the committee. Anyone with suggestions should contact Ernie.

The Fall newsletter will be the proceedings from the FPER. This may be edited by Paula Heron.

## MEETINGS

**Joint APS/AAPT Meeting, Feb 2010:** Larry talked with Judy Franz and David Sokoloff about this meeting. The meeting schedules will be independent. As usual, FEd will have 5 invited sessions with three speakers each. Co-sponsorship across the associations doesn't change the allocations in any way, so FEd could potentially support a number of AAPT sessions. The APS will provide more information about this at the convocation. Registration provides entrance to both meetings.

Lila noted that the AAPT session proposals are due March 2 and the paper sort is March 29. It makes sense to label sessions as co-sponsored between AAPT and APS, even if there is no official connection. The FEd can look at the AAPT program and consider co-sponsorship.

A concern was expressed about the difference in the length of sessions between the organizations: Invited talks - APS 30 + 6, AAPT 25 + 5, Contributed papers - APS 10 + 2, AAPT 8 + 2.

Other concerns were the distance between meetings, the number of parallel sessions, and other coordination between the programs. Lila noted that the AAPT has recently held joint meetings with AAS and AAAS. Efforts are made to coordinate sessions so that people can move freely between the different programs. Plenary times are particularly difficult. David Sokoloff is working to organize this.

**Feb 2010 Plenary Speaker:** The FEd has not been able to get an APS Plenary Speaker on Education, but this meeting is a good possibility. The possibility of having a joint Plenary with the AAPT was suggested, but the AAPT's plenary speakers are award winners. There probably won't be any others from the AAPT. Larry will be going to the APS Programs meeting and will recommend Plenary Speakers. We should have recommendations to him before the meeting. This is usually in September, but will probably need to be earlier this year.

Suggestions: Someone from Washington. Bill Foster, Ehlers, Holt, Undersecretary of Education. We might discuss this with the Washing APS office. Carl Wieman would be a big draw.

**Feb 2010 Meeting Coordination:** There will be many overlaps between AAPT and FEd audiences, so there may be too many education sessions. Should we use every slot?

Stamatis noted that this is already an issue at AAPT meetings and the community is familiar with the problem. Efforts should be made to minimize conflicts, but they can't be avoided. Noah noted similar problems with the joint AAPT/AAAS meeting.

Noah also brought up making connections with the NSBP/NSHP meeting. Ted noted that their meeting starts on Thursday and there is a one day overlap on Saturday with NSBP, NSHP, PTEC, APS, and AAPT. The NSBP/NSHP meeting is in a hotel across the street. The APS and AAPT are in the same hotel. There are efforts underway to plan something big on Saturday afternoon, a truly collaborative overlap session or event. These efforts should be coordinated. Ted will send around a list of the members of the APS working committee for this coordination. Chandralekha noted that Lawrence Norris needs to be involved.

**2010 Program Committee:** Ernie will need to appoint a program committee for 2010. Larry will solicit volunteers and Ernie will make the formal appointment. Those wishing to volunteer should do so. Larry is working with Peter and Chandralekha on the committee and is using people from Peter's committee. Input from all of the Executive committee members will be appreciated. The Feb/April meeting should be particularly interesting.

**Summer AAPT Plenary Sessions:** Peter described the tradition of the FEd and a division of the APS organizing a Plenary at the summer AAPT meeting. The FEd solicits divisions to do this and helps support travel and other costs for speakers. The AAPT waives meeting registration for the speakers. This summer the session is being co-sponsored by the Division of Plasma Physics. There are two very good speakers scheduled. This is already on the agenda for the meeting.

Next summer the session should be jointly sponsored with a different unit, perhaps Condensed Matter. Larry will organize this.

## **DISCUSSION**

**FEd Member Survey:** John introduced a membership survey to be sent to FEd members to determine potential issues for the Forum to pursue. Several suggestions were discussed for both the content and structure of the survey.

John will work on updating the survey and he and Bruce will work with the APS to send this out. Ernie would like the results to be available for the Denver meeting.

**SPIN-UP Regional Workshops:** Bruce presented information about regional workshops to be held around the country this summer. Ruth Howes is leading this effort. A report from the workshops would be a good topic for a session at the February meeting. Gay felt that this would be good for the FEd to sponsor because we would provide an important audience for this work. There was a general feeling that this would be important information for the FEd membership. Bruce will send around the information and work with Larry and Ruth on the session.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 CT