

Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

**Attendance:**

Alexis, Brock, Katie, Laura, Vikram, David, Michele Irwin (APS), Brian Beckford (APS), Tyler Glembo (APS), Trish Lettieri (APS), Megan Comins

**Agenda:**

0. Committee on Careers and Professional Development (CCPD), how representative chosen (Megan Comins)
- I. Update from past events
  - A. Reactions from the March and April Meeting Sessions and Student Receptions
  - B. Update from the APS Convocation and Congressional Visits (Brock Russel)
  - C. Executive Council Update (Eric Sorte)
- II. Future Events, Main Business
  - A. CAM13- We have funding!
  - B. Negotiations Webinar (Laura Boon and Crystal Bailey)
    - Do we want to set up a Negotiations webinar for the fall?
    - Reactions from the workshop at the March meeting attached.
  - C. Marketing and PR (Alexis Knaub)
  - D. Strategic Plan (Eric Sorte, Maria Longobardi, and Laura Boon)
    - Strategic Plan attached
    - Feedback from APS/AAPT Conference on Graduate Education in Physics attached
  - E. STEM Advocacy (Tyler Glembo)
- III. Committee Reports
  - A. AAAS Science and Human Rights Representative Needed
    - Website: <http://shr.aaas.org/coalition/>
  - B. Program Committee Needed (Brock Russell)
  - C. Committee for the Status of Women in Physics (CSWP) representative?

**Minutes:**

O. Committee on Careers and Professional Development (CCPD), how representative chosen (Megan Comins)

- 1) Would like a well-defined way that the representative is nominated.
- 2) Suggested term
  - a. 1 year with a possible 1 year renewal
  - b. Starting on January 1<sup>st</sup>
  - c. Corresponds to the CCPD and CSWP terms
- 3) Nomination process options (obviously not necessary is during a renewal year)
  - a. FGSA chair nominates 2 people, CCPD chooses 1 of these. → Dominant at CCPD meeting
  - b. Additional responsibility of an FGSA officer
  - c. Create another executive officer position. Large enough job to warrant a separate position particularly if serves both CCPD and CSWP.

- 4) All of these would likely require minor changes in the by-laws (possibly not if appointing...?)
- 5) Laura will email CSWP to see what their response is, and Megan will consult with CCPD.

#### Introduction to Brian Beckford

- New APS department of Education and Diversity, Bridge Program project manager.
  - Goal – increase the numbers of underrepresented minorities obtaining PhD's in physics.
  - Attended to gain a broader view of what is happening across APS in other committees and groups.
- I. Update from past events
    - A. Reactions from the March and April Meeting Sessions and Student Receptions
      - 1) March meeting
        - a. Student reception - handed out information for undergrads and graduate students.
        - b. Session on careers in government and science policy.
          - i. 3 speakers
          - ii. Panel with feedback and discussion
        - c. Mix up with the rooms – will be fixed next year.
        - d. Even so all events went very well.
        - e. Communication problem and did not have newsletters in time, next year need to get started sooner. However, the handouts were well-received by the Committee on Members!
      - 2) April Meeting
        - a. Crystal organized a student reception.
        - b. Panel on non-academic careers (very full)
          - i. Laura talked about FGSA and what we do, assisted by some brochures.
          - ii. 2 sessions associated with FGSA, one with FIAP
            1. 1 co-sponsored by FIP (Forum on International Physics) on science diplomacy. One of the speakers didn't show, but time was filled with general discussion. Speakers had government jobs or appointed positions.
            2. Office of Public Affairs.
              - a. Engaging the public (how to do radio, books, etc.)
              - b. Science Education
              - c. Ben Aimes (PhD student and winner of the Alan Aldas Flame Challenge)
            3. FIAP session for which they would like our support for similar things in the future – 3 speakers.
              - a. How is a job in industry different from one in academia.
              - b. How do you go about the interview and search
              - c. How do you capitalize on your research background to start your own company.

- c. All events also had great feedback from everyone.
- B. Update from the APS Convocation and Congressional Visits (Brock Russel)
  - 1) Attended by Brock, Maria, Kate
  - 2) APS Convocation
    - a. Meeting of all the leadership from different units.
    - b. At College Park headquarters.
    - c. Very useful to know what resources are available.
    - d. The fora session was especially informational.
      - i. The other fora were very interested in what would be helpful for graduate students and how we could work together.
      - ii. FIAP in particular was eager to spend some of their extra money in conjunction with us, as we will be their next employees!
  - 3) Congresssional Visit Day
    - a. Go into DC to meet with Senators and Representatives from various states to discuss science funding and policy.
    - b. The ask this time was simple no sequestration (much more simple than some years)...for which everyone sort of agreed, but wasn't willing to do anything about.
    - c. It was very easy as a young person to relate with the legislative assistants with whom we spoke because of the similarity in age.
    - d. Unique experience. Highly recommended.

C. Executive Council Update (Eric Sorte) – n/a NOT PRESENT

## II. Future Events, Main Business

A. CAM13- We have funding!

- 1) CAM (Canadian-American-Mexican graduate student physics conference) 2013
  - a. We officially have funding! – Means FGSA will not have to kick in some of their own budget!
  - b. Originally proposed 25 students and 3 speakers. That has changed to 21 students and 4 speakers. – We have enough money to cover all these.
  - c. This money originated from the NSF grant submitted in Jan.
  - d. Still not sure whether this money will go through the FGSA budget or not.

B. Negotiations Webinar (Laura Boon and Crystal Bailey)

- 1) Co-sponsored workshop for the March meeting covering job interviews, etc.
  - a. Great feedback!
  - b. FIAP added on another one so that more students had the opportunity as there were not enough spaces in ours.
  - c. Feedback form – for the workshop not focused on industrial careers.

- 82% of survey respondents noted that their confidence had increased since attending the workshop
- Over 95% noted that the workshop showed them how to benchmark their salary and benefits for their first job and how to use a basic budget to prepare for the negotiation process
- 97% agreed that they would recommend participating in this workshop to a friend

- 2) How much money would it cost to host such a webinar?
  - a. Could we have the same host? \$\$?
  - b. Still waiting to hear from Deanna with an estimate.
  - c. With Peter he charges \$1k an hour, potentially 2 hours.
    - i. At such a cost, the APS in general could help out and make it a member benefit, not just for FGSA.
    - ii. Problem there is priority is typically given to PI's and postdocs.
    - iii. We would prefer something with a preference for grads
    - iv. Could have a link to a registration site requiring a member ID to log in and register, perhaps adjusted for FGSA membership.
    - v. Alternatively, could send out a password for the registration from FGSA, but then that is easy to pass along...?
    - vi. Decide details through emails later.
  - d. Alternatively, really like the CSWP female facilitator last time
    - i. However, we don't want something only directed at women...can she do that?
    - ii. Cost?

#### C. Marketing and PR (Alexis Knaub)

- 1) Concerns about FGSA visibility at universities.
- 2) Maybe posters to send to unis? Or some other way?
- 3) Note that when students sign up for APS membership there is a mark or something encouraging them to sign up for FGSA.
- 4) Also, every department chair and APS friends get information publicizing the free trial student membership.
  - a. Possibly piggyback an FGSA poster/flyer off of this?
  - b. Alexis takes on this – work with Jen Piernot in the special publications group.
- 5) Other ideas are pens, or screenwipes, etc. that would have the FGSA logo on – this could also be subsidized by the APS since they could also be used as giveaways for APS members at meetings, etc.

#### D. Strategic Plan (Eric Sorte, Maria Longobardi, and Laura Boon)

- 1) See strategic plan draft at the end of these notes!
- 2) Goal to define what FGSA does and what direction we aim to go.
- 3) Came out of the recent APS strategic plan
- 4) Want to keep our goals structured and in line with those of APS

5) Comments/Questions/Suggestions

- a. Is Twitter worthwhile?
  - i. Feel like very few people use it.
  - ii. Decide → we want to get as many people as possible, why not set it up, even if to begin with it only gains us a few people.
  - iii. Can work with Chelsea Pede (social media guru for APS) for these types of things.
- b. We should add something about our promotion of early career development and the things we do to make that transition easier.
  - i. This is important because it is a huge focus in all the APS units right now, and it would bring us very much into line with their strategic plans.
  - ii. We promote the availability of resources on graduate and future careers, helping with interviews, etc. via workshops, and webinars....
  - iii. APS is likely hiring a fellowship to think about industrial career paths with students and have activities etc. – this person when hired should sit in on one of our meetings.
- c. Insert something to do with working closely with other fora.

E. STEM Advocacy (Tyler Glembo)

1) 2 major events in STEM politics currently

- a. Large STEM realignment in the president's budget.
  - i. Currently ~200 programs vertically integrated – may start with a 4 year old and keep interacting with that individual through graduate school.
  - ii. Plan is to cancel, move around and reconsolidate ~120 of these programs focused on STEM outreach and education.
  - iii. Planning to create a couple of new programs at the Smithsonian and within NSF.
  - iv. Concerns:
    1. The department of education is not that knowledgeable in the STEM fields.
    2. The Smithsonian is no where near as experienced as NASA with outreach.
  - v. PLAN
    1. Contact the administration
    2. Publish op-eds explaining the potential impact if these programs are removed.
    3. This is particularly important for NASA's huge outreach and education efforts which will be completely decimated.
- b. At the state level NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards)
  - i. Problem that currently in the same district, but different school, certainly from state to state there is the use of completely different texts. So if a child moves, even across town they risk being behind or ahead 1-2 years.
  - ii. Local movements for common core standards (CCS)
    1. Not implemented yet

2. 26 states have signed on, but 24 still have not (focus on those that haven't)
- 2) How can FGSA be involved?
  - a. Help lobbying to keep NASA's education and outreach programs. Think graduate students would be very helpful here. Grads are adored on the hill.
  - b. We can work with state legislators in states not having yet passed the CCS regarding the potential benefits. – Even better if we get grads from those states to do the petitioning.
  - c. For either issue, graduate students provide a unique view, particularly with personal stories or direct experiences that resonate with the issues at hand.
  - d. Considering another petition sent around, like the one regarding the sequester that we could be involved in.
  - e. Good to have consistent communication with the DC office, encouraging students to lobby these issues themselves.
  - f. Maybe consider having the travel grant awardees requirement be to help out with the contact congress booth at the March and April meetings?
- 3) All of this is very new. There will be another meeting soon, and Tyler will update us and keep us posted on these issues as well as APS stances.
- 4) To keep updated, there is the Physics Frontline Blog on the APS.org front page.
  - a. We should brainstorm ways this blog can be better utilized.
  - b. Maybe each time it is updated, post a link on the FGSA facebook page...twitter if/when we get that going.
- 5) If any additional thoughts or suggestions, email Tyler at [glembo@aps.org](mailto:glembo@aps.org)

### III. Committee Reports

A. AAAS Science and Human Rights Representative Needed → Website:  
<http://shr.aaas.org/coalition/> (Michele Irwin – APS Office for International Affairs)

- 1) See job description attached.
- 2) Coalition composed of engineering and science societies along with individuals
- 3) January and July meetings recently discussed having every member society to appoint a student member.
- 4) The coalitions primary role is to raise awareness generally of the connection between science and human rights.
- 5) The representative would be expected to participate in one of the 5 different working groups of the coalition. These meetings are typically online. As well as attend both the Jan and July meetings.
- 6) There won't be a formal internship, however they will formally represent APS in the coalition.
- 7) The Office of International Affairs would split the cost of travel to the meetings with the FGSA.
- 8) Time Commitment
  - a. 2 meetings 1.5 days each in January and July
  - b. working group meetings 3-4 per year, ~1-2 hrs each.
  - c. Additional time commitment for personal work for the coalition.

9) Can appoint someone? If interested email Laura. Likely Vikram as his term ends in Dec 2013.

B. Program Committee Needed (Brock Russell)

If interested in being on the committee, please email Brock at [brock.r.russell@gmail.com](mailto:brock.r.russell@gmail.com)

C. Committee for the Status of Women in Physics (CSWP) representative?

As discussed in item O. This is being taken care of.

Next meeting likely in August.

## **FGSA Strategic Plan**

Voted on by the Executive Board May 2013

*The following document intended to provide a clear idea of the activities and goals of the FGSA. The Forum intends to pursue the following initiatives and goals.*

### **Increase Membership Communication**

A core mission of the FGSA is to maintain and increase the membership of the Forum, and be of value to its members. Increased communication with the membership will help to provide this value and increase the visibility and utility of the FGSA. This will be achieved by

- Support and development of the new Facebook page, increasing its membership and use/usefulness.
- Exploration of the use of other social media outlets (Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.)
- Specific initiatives to increase communication and collaboration with members outside the United States as well as sister societies in other countries.
- Continue to publish and distribute a newsletter with articles by and for the FGSA membership.

### **Increase Communication with Public**

Consistent with broad goals of the APS Strategic Mission, the FGSA strives to increase the visibility of graduate students in the public sphere and assist them in communicating their views of science to policy makers and the public at large. FGSA assists its members' voices to be heard by

- Providing information on and facilitating the process of writing and/or visiting with congressmen and senators about science-related topics.
- Providing information on and facilitating the process of writing editorial comments to local newspapers on science-related topics.
- Coordinating with the APS to support their initiatives in this regard.

### **Travel Funding**

FGSA actively funds graduate students to attend conferences in the US and abroad. The pilot program has been operating since 2009, and has been very successful. Continuation and expansion of the travel grant program will be achieved by

- Increasing visibility of winners and thereby the prestige of the award
  - Winners and their pictures on webpage (FGSA and/or APS), on Facebook page, in APS news, etc.



- Continuation of funding and expanding the program financially as resources are made available.

### **Conferences**

FGSA will continue to participate in the March and April meetings of APS and the Canadian-American-Mexican conference (CAM). Our involvement will include:

- Organizing and sponsoring session(s) of interest to the FGSA membership at the March and April meetings, including working with other units with similar goals.
- Supporting the Student Reception at the March Meeting
- Nominate representative(s) to serve on the organizing committees of CAM, a conference held every other year.
- Years that Canada or Mexico are hosting CAM, FGSA will provide travel grants to plenary speakers and students from the US.
- Years that the US is hosting we will also organize, run and financially support the conference.

## **AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Student Representative – Job Description**

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### **The Role of the Student Representative**

Each Coalition member and affiliated organization may identify one Student Representative to the Coalition. The student will work alongside the organization's two representatives to support the organization's work in the Coalition. Each organization may select its Student Representative in the manner appropriate to its membership structure. Each Student Representative will serve a one-year term beginning at the January Coalition meeting, which the organization may renew up to a total of three years.

The primary role of the Student Representative is to raise awareness of the Coalition within their organization, with a view to increasing participation in the Coalition by students and young professionals from their discipline. This is a professional role that provides students with opportunities to further their careers through networking and mentoring. Student Representatives also are encouraged to propose new activities for the Coalition so that it better reflects the perspectives of scientists and engineers throughout all phases of their careers.

### **Expected duties**

- Work closely with their organization's designated representatives to the Coalition.
- Attend the semi-annual Coalition meetings in Washington, DC.
- Actively participate in one working group or committee.
- Communicate the Coalition's goals and activities to members of their organization. Student Representatives should establish the specific means for accomplishing this (e.g., writing newsletter articles, presenting at meetings, etc.) with the representatives of their organization when they first take up the role.
- Increase student awareness of the Coalition in their discipline. Activities could include (but are not limited to) inviting students to attend Coalition meetings, sharing information about Coalition activities with student chapters, and writing articles for the organization's student.
- Students are encouraged to develop ideas for consideration by the Coalition's Outreach and Communications Committee, such as new ways to reach out to campuses, student activities to be held at the Coalition meetings or new events.

### **Other information**

Each organization should provide full travel expenses for its Student Representative to participate in Coalition meetings. Organizations may consider other types of academic and professional development support as well (for example, connecting the role to a course for credit or a formal internship). At the end of each student's term as a representative, AAAS will provide the student with a certificate recognizing their contribution to the Coalition.