

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting

Albuquerque, New Mexico

21 April 2002

Introductions. Ben Bederson, after calling the meeting to order at 08:30, introduced new and old members of the Executive Committee.

Approval of minutes of April 2001 meeting. The minutes of the prior year's meeting were approved after some minor copy editing.

Report by the Chair. Ben Bederson remarked that invited sessions are currently the most important activity of the Forum. He congratulated Hans Frauenfelder and those who worked with him for their outstanding job in planning this year's remarkably successful sessionstwo in Indianapolis in March and two in Albuquerque in April.

Hans, in a "sub-report," gave some of the criteria that helped him and his committee members plan popular and valuable sessions: (1) Avoid overlap with invited topics of recent years. (2) Take advantage of personal contacts with potential sessions chairs and speakers. (3) Find at least one lead speaker for each session who will be a strong attraction. Yet, at the same time, (4) hold down expenses!

Secretary-Treasurer's Report. Ken Ford reported on several matters. Two supporting handouts are attached hereto. (a) Membership statistics. FHP membership grew from 2,200 in 1991 to around 3,000 by the mid-1990s, and has been stable at close to that number for the past half-dozen years. This is about 7 percent of APS membership, which has also been relatively steady in recent years, in the 40,000 to 42,000 range. (b) Voting and election results. Typically, 5 to 10 percent of FHP members vote (7.7 percent this year). Nina Byers was elected Vice Chair; Per Dahl and Dan Siegel were elected to three-year terms on the FHP Executive Committee. (c) Finances. FHP income, mostly from dues allocation, grew from just under \$12,000 in 1998-1999 to somewhat more than \$14,000 in 2000-2001, and expenses matched income pretty closely. The reserve "kitty" has remained at about \$13,000 (i.e., roughly equal to one year's expenses). It is likely, Ken reported, that expenses in 2001-2002 will exceed income by several thousand dollars (mainly because of travel expenses to Albuquerque), reducing the "kitty" but not dangerously so.

In discussion following Ken's report, members urged that FHP officers do more to "get out the vote." Ken and Bill Evenson agreed to try to stimulate more members to vote next year.

In further discussion, Dan Greenberger brought up an issue related to finances, a possible Forum publishing program. The Forum on Physics and Society, for example, has published proceedings of some of its sessions in booklet form. Hans Frauenfelder, without delay, appointed Dan and Laurie Brown to be a two-person committee to explore publishing possibilities.

Ken was asked to correct the committee list to show that Stephen G. Brush, Roger Stuewer, and Spencer Weart are members of the Award Committee. Michael Riordan distributed his new coordinates at UC Santa Cruz.

Newsletter Editor's Report. Bill Evenson reported that he will contact session chairs from the March and April meetings so that he can report on these sessions in the Fall Newsletter. Bill asked committee members to suggest books suitable for review in the Newsletter, and to suggest criteria for review (he receives far more books that he can review). Several members endorsed the idea of

reviewing the recent book, *Physics, the Human Adventure*, by Gerald Holton and Stephen G. Brush.

Bill was praised and applauded for his outstanding work as Newsletter editor.

Forum Councilor's Report. Gloria Lubkin reported on several matters.

(a) Beginning in 2003, APS will use the calendar year as its fiscal year, changing from its present July-June fiscal year. (b) An APS study on boost-phase missile defense is expected to be released in November. Jim Langer heads a committee reviewing the report. The study was funded from private sources. (c) A combined APS/AAPT/AIP PhysTec program devoted to the preparation of future physics teachers and the mentoring of present ones has received grants totaling more than \$6 million, mostly (\$5.76 million) from the NSF. Fred Stein, APS's education officer, is a leader of the program. (d) A new topical group on hadronic physics has been approved. (A task force to study the proliferation of topical groups has also been created.) (e) Miriam Sarachik heads a task force on prizes and awards that is recommending that future APS prizes be at least \$10,000 (awards can be less). A standing committee will review proposed new prizes and awards, and will review the suitability of present prizes and awards. (f) New editors of *Phys Rev C* and *Phys Rev E* have been announced. (g) APS Council approved a new task force on terrorism. (h) Reversing past practice, China has decided to pay for, rather than pirate, APS journals, and has sent a payment of \$1.4 million.

Discussion with APS Officer. Judy Franz responded to questions and discussed several issues with the committee. (a) A nonmember can present a contributed paper at an APS meeting if it is sponsored by a member. (b) The future of the April meeting, which loses money each year, is in doubt. It is officially the "annual meeting" of the Society and she is personally loyal to it, but it is conceivable that it may be phased out eventually. (c) Judy agreed that more effort should be devoted to getting contributed papers in the history of physics. One possibility is to consider "focus sessions" that include one invited paper and the rest contributed. (d) Judy affirmed that any approaches to donors for the History Award should be discussed with, and cleared with, APS. The Society, she said, will not "hang onto" potential donors for an unreasonable time and will "release" them as soon as it can.

Program Committee Report. Hans Frauenfelder reported that both sessions in Indianapolis in March, one on tunneling, the other on synchrotron radiation, were very well attended; that the Albuquerque session "From EPR to Entanglement," organized by Elizabeth Paris, was also well attended; and that a large audience is also expected for the upcoming session on the history of Los Alamos. [He had spoken earlier see item No. 3 on strategies for organizing successful sessions.]

An extensive discussion of the need for more contributed papers followed. Ideas included soliciting such papers from the ranks of graduate students working on both history and physics degrees (a small enough universe, Elizabeth Paris pointed out, that people could be approached individually through their professors); encouraging older physicists to give personal reminiscences; encouraging students of great physicists to reminisce about their mentors; denoting specific topics for contributed sessions; and encouraging people local to a given meeting to contribute papers. The new Program Committee (Michael Riordan, Chair) was asked to form a subcommittee to explore contributed paper issues. Nina Byers volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

Award Committee Report. Ben Bederson reported that the Award Committee was formed in the Fall of 2001 and took as its first order of business fund-raising for an award endowment. Darlene Logan at APS has been very helpful and AIP's History Center has been supportive. The committee has been active, with frequent conference calls, and it held a well-attended reception the day before this Executive Committee meeting. To expedite its work, the committee has formed an executive committee. Ben mentioned the names of some specific donor prospects. The committee hopes for a

lead gift in the \$50,000 to \$100,000 range. (The proposed annual \$5,000 award will require an endowment of at least \$100,000.)

Fellowship Committee Report. Michael Riordan reported that the committee has proposed just one person for fellowship this year and has forwarded the nomination with supporting material to APS. Because of the exigencies of time, the nomination was not brought first to the Executive Committee, as called for in the rules. Bill Evenson reported that such bypassing of the Executive Committee has been fairly common in the past, without objection. The committee agreed, however, that this is not an appropriate pattern, and, in this case, the candidate is more controversial than usual. Motion by Elizabeth Paris: Moved that the nomination be held in abeyance for about two weeks to permit supporting material to be distributed to Executive Committee members so that an email vote of endorsement or nonendorsement can take place if not inconsistent with APS deadlines. This motion failed, but it was the general consensus of the Executive Committee that in future the Fellowship Committee should bring its recommendations to the Executive Committee before they are forwarded to APS.

Nina Byers, who will chair the Fellowship Committee in the coming year, asked for guidance on criteria for Fellowship nomination. [Subsequently, she ascertained that it is not too late to make nominations for this year. She may endeavor to do so or get others to do so. Such nominations will come back to her committee for review some time in June.]

Membership Committee Report. Ken Ford reported that the Membership Committee has been inactive in the past year, but that he and Dan Greenberger were willing to continue to serve on the committee, with activity promised. Specific actions proposed: (a) Contact lapsed members (those who are still APS members but no longer FHP members) and encourage them to rejoin FHP. (b) Make handouts encouraging application for membership available at future FHP-sponsored invited sessions. (c) Include an invitation to join FHP in a once-a-year email message to all APS members, a mailing that will also draw attention to an updated FHP Web site.

Nominating Committee Report. Laurie Brown and members of his committee received the congratulations of the Executive Committee for a job well done.

Report on APS Units Convocation. Ben Bederson reported that this event, held in College Park, was highly informative about APS matters in general. He praised the quality and responsiveness of APS staff, Judy Franz and many others.

Committees for 2002-2003. Hans Frauenfelder, whose job it is to appoint committees for the coming year, did so on the spot. See the attached roster.

Other Business. (a) By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee agreed to recommend the printed by-law changes to the APS Council. (b) The Executive Committee expressed its thanks and appreciation to three outgoing members, Laurie Brown, Michael Nauenberg, and Allan Needell, for their service to FHP. Certificates recognizing their contributions were executed (not, it should be noted, on vellum).

Announcement of Next Meeting. The next meeting of the FHP Executive Committee will be held in Philadelphia during the 5-8 April 2003 meeting.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 13:30.

Respectfully submitted
Ken Ford

Business Meeting

Monday, April 22, 2002, 12:15

Convention Center Pecos Room, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Agenda and Minutes

A sparsely attended meeting was called to order by incoming Chair Hans Frauenfelder.

Welcome and report on Forum activities. Hans Frauenfelder reported on recent Forum activities, especially the very successful sessions at the March meeting in Indianapolis and at this April meeting in Albuquerque.

Membership and financial report. Ken Ford distributed handouts that summarized FHP membership and voting statistics in recent years, and FHP finances for the past three years.

3. Questions, discussion, other business from the floor. There was general agreement that the just-completed contributed-paper session was excellent and that increased efforts should be made to stimulate contributed papers at future meetings.

The meeting adjourned after about fifteen minutes.

Respectfully submitted

Ken Ford