

# Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting

## Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### 4 April 2003

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hans Frauenfelder at 9:00.

**Introductions.** Hans Frauenfelder introduced members and guests. Present were members Elizabeth Baranger, Bill Evenson, Ken Ford, Hans Frauenfelder, Dan Greenberger, Gloria Lubkin, Elizabeth Paris, Michael Riordan, and Dan Siegel, as well as members-elect Michael Nauenberg and Robert Romer. Visiting the meeting for limited periods were APS officers Martin Blume, Alan Chodos, Judy Franz, and Tom McIlraith, as well as vice chair Robert Romer and member-elect Michael Nauenberg.

**Minutes of prior meetings.** The minutes of the April 2002 meeting in Albuquerque and the special February 2003 email meeting of the FHP Executive Committee were approved without dissent.

**Report of the Chair.** Hans Frauenfelder thanked the many FHP members who helped make the 2003 programs so successful. He alluded in particular to the very large turnouts for the FHP sessions in Austin in March and to the vital help of Howard Huff. He noted also the benefit of co-sponsorship of sessions at this April meeting.

**Secretary-Treasurer's report.** Ken Ford reported on four matters:

*Election results.* Robert Romer was elected Vice Chair, Patrick McCray as an Executive Committee member for a two-year term, and Gerald Holton and Michael Nauenberg as Executive Committee members for three-year terms. *Membership.* FHP membership is approximately, 3,000, about 7 percent of the APS membership; it has changed little over the past half dozen years. 224 members voted in the 2003 election 172 by email and 52 on paper. Ken was asked to find out how voting statistics of other units compare with those of FHP. *Finances.* Two years ago, in fiscal 2000, expenses closely matched income of approximately \$13,000. Last year, in fiscal 2001, income and expenses were also in close balance at approximately \$14,000 each. In fiscal 2002, however, expenses of approximately \$17,000 appreciably exceeded income of approximately \$14,000, resulting in FHP reserves being drawn down by about 25 percent, from \$13,652 to \$10,593. Although there were "good" reasons for the imbalance of income and expenses in 2002, the Committee agreed that expenses should be held closer to income in 2003. It was noted that Newsletter costs, at about \$7,000 annually, have not increased noticeably in recent years. *FHP Web site.* Ken reported that the FHP Web site has been improved and brought up to date. He cited the excellent work of Sara Conners at APS in prompt implementation of changes and additions. He invited Executive Committee members to report any errors they find on the Web site and to suggest additional material to be posted.

**Program Committee report.** Michael Riordan described the two outstanding sessions at Austin in March and pointed to the excellent programs scheduled for this April meeting four sessions, thanks to co-sponsorship with other units. He made sure that every session included at least one practicing historian so that talks would not be exclusively reminiscences. He emphasized the benefits of co-sponsorship and recommended the continued practice of co-sponsoring sessions. He spoke also of the importance of getting more contributed papers in history, and made the following motion: **The Program Committee is authorized to appoint a person to look into ways to encourage more contributed papers, especially from young scholars.** This motion passed without dissent. Michael reported that new member Patrick McCray is willing to assume this responsibility. He also mentioned the possible value of "focus sessions" in which one or two invited papers are augmented by

contributed papers, an attractive possibility when future Pais Award winners can be invited as speakers.

A new Program Committee for 2004, chaired by Nina Byers, has already started its work. To assist this and future committees, Ken Ford was asked to post the titles of all FHP sessions for the past ten years or so on the FHP Web site. [This has been accomplished.]

**Newsletter Editor's report.** Bill Evenson indicated that, after six years in the job, he wishes not to be considered for reappointment. He has accepted the chairmanship of a search committee to find the next newsletter Editor. Michael Riordan will serve on the same committee. Bill noted that considerable cost savings could be realized if the fall Newsletter were issued in electronic form only, with the spring Newsletter continuing in both formats. He asked session chairs to request summaries of invited talks for inclusion in the fall 2003 Newsletter.

**Forum Councilor's report.** Gloria Lubkin reported on items of interest from the APS Council meetings of November 2002 and April 2003. These included a boost phase intercept report (revised report expected in May 2003), a topical conference on opportunities in biology for physicists, a task force on countering terrorism, statements on research misconduct and professional ethics, a study on detection of anti-personnel land mines, the issue of visas for foreign visitors, a report on the March 2003 meeting (the largest ever), rules governing topical groups, a statement on the nuclear test ban, and APS participation in the World Year of Physics 2005.

**Discussions with APS officers.** (a) **Tom McIlraith** congratulated FHP on its great success in raising more than \$100,000 to endow the Abraham Pais History Award. He reported on the sound financial condition of APS and the fact that APS is still able to allocate to the units 7 percent of invested unit funds as unit income. (b) **Judy Franz**, after adding her congratulations on the fund-raising effort, described an ambitious effort under the umbrella of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics to designate 2005 as the *World Year of Physics*. In many ways, there will be outreach to the public, including, possibly, a traveling "road show." A sub-theme will be "Einstein in the Twenty-First Century." She invited FHP participation. (c) **Martin Blume** described a plan to create a "virtual journal" that would bring together papers from APS journals that led to Nobel Prizes. Michael Riordan agreed to serve on a committee to help bring this about, and to assist in seeking a chair for this committee. (d) **Alan Chodos** reported on his proposal that physics historic sites in America be identified and appropriately "labeled." To date he has received 25 suggestions for such sites.

**Award Committee report.** Ben Bederson, although unable to attend the meeting, presented a written report, which was distributed and was augmented by remarks of Michael Riordan. As the result of a very successful fund-raising effort, the Award endowment stands at \$102,000. Additional fund-raising will take place, including solicitation of all FHP members, with an endowment goal of \$125,000. At its April 2003 meeting, the APS Executive Board approved naming the Award the Abraham Pais Award for History of Physics.

**Fellowship Committee report.** Nina Byers reported that the Fellowship Committee itself has been active in putting forth nominations for Fellowship, the last FHP-sponsored Fellow having been named in 2000. The committee plans to seek FHP Executive Committee endorsement of those newly nominated.

**Membership Committee report.** Ken Ford reported that the deployment of membership recruitment flyers in Austin had resulted in about 25 new members. Bill Evenson and Howard Huff assisted in this effort. Ken distributed copies of the flyer to chairs of FHP sessions at this April meeting. All agreed to draw the attention of attenders to the flyers.

**Nominating Committee report.** Virginia Trimble reported on the work of her committee and expressed some regret that neither female candidate had prevailed against better-known senior male candidates. She was congratulated and thanked for her excellent work.

**Balloting procedures.** Virginia Trimble brought two concerns to the committee: (a) that FHP balloting is not certifiably secret, and (b) that the vote tallies are not made public. After discussion, Ken Ford was asked to do three things: (1) Explore options for secret balloting and report back. (2) Find out more about how other units conduct their elections. (3) Inform any candidate who inquires what the vote tallies were.

**Protocols for electronic meetings.** Elizabeth Paris suggested that time limits be set for electronic meetings. Gloria Lubkin volunteered to find out what protocols for electronic meetings are used by other APS units, and to report back.

**Major directions for 2003-2004.** Michael Riordan reiterated that FHP should take steps to encourage young scholars to contribute papers to further strengthen the FHP contributed-paper session at April meetings. He stated also that necessary preparations for the Pais Award, including wrapping up the fund-raising campaign, should be completed in time to allow the first Award to be bestowed in 2005.

**Committees for 2003-2004.** Michael Riordan solicited additional suggestions for FHP committees for 2003-2004. These will be enumerated separately, once they are confirmed. Discussion concluded with the adoption of the following motion: **The Fellowship Committee is asked to review general APS criteria for Fellowship and consider whether any additional criteria should be specified by FHP.**

**Other business.** *FHP publishing program.* Dan Greenberger reported that he and Laurie Brown had not made progress on this issue. Hans Frauenfelder, after gaining Dan's assent to explore the matter further, suggested to Michael Riordan that Dan and Laurie be asked to look into the merits and feasibility of an FHP publishing program. [Michael later appointed them to the FHP Editorial Board and Publications Committee with this mandate in mind.]

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned around 13:00.

Respectfully submitted  
Kenneth W. Ford  
Secretary-Treasurer  
(with thanks to Gloria Lubkin for covering a part of the meeting)

# **Minutes of April 2003 Annual Business Meeting**

## **Business Meeting**

**Sunday, April 6, 2003, 13:15**

**Loews Regency Ballroom C2, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

## **Agenda and Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by incoming Chair Michael Riordan.

Welcome and report on Forum activities. Michael Riordan reported on recent Forum activities, especially the very successful invited sessions at the March meeting in Austin and at this April meeting in Philadelphia, as well as the excellent contributed paper session, just concluded.

Membership and financial report. Ken Ford distributed and briefly discussed 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. It was noted that a positive feature of the contributed paper session was the wide range of topics covered, in contrast to the narrow focus of most contributed-paper sessions at APS meetings.

The meeting adjourned after about fifteen minutes.

Respectfully submitted

Ken Ford, FHP Secretary-Treasurer