

**APS Forum on Physics & Society Executive Committee Meeting
Conference Call
October 4, 2007**

Attendees: Lawrence Krauss, Pushpa Bhat, Don Prosnitz, Andrew Zwicker, Benn Tannenbaum, Bo Hammer, Phil Taylor, Mark Goodman, Ruth Howes

The meeting lasted from 9:30 AM CDT to 11 AM CDT.

Proposed Agenda:

1. News – Lawrence/Pushpa
2. APS Exec Board/Council News – Bo Hammer
3. Elections/Nominations – Phil Taylor
4. Follow-up on short course on Energy – Barbara Levi
5. APS March and April meetings/ FPS sessions -- Andrew
6. Fellowship Committee Report --
7. FPS/SPS Student Fellowship Program – Bo Hammer
8. Awards Committee Report – Pete Zimmerman
9. Public Event on “Science & American Competitiveness” -- Pushpa/Lawrence
10. Finances – Pushpa
11. AOB

1. News – Lawrence/Pushpa

P&S Newsletter: The October Physics & Society (P&S) Newsletter would soon be available online. There was a request from Al Saperstein to the FPS session organizers at the APS meetings to urge the speakers to write-up their talks as articles for P&S. Since some speakers could feel this as undesirable pressure, it was decided that standard emails could be sent to the speakers encouraging them to submit synopsis or brief articles on the topics.

P&S EB: Need to check if there are members of the Editorial Board whose terms are up and if the executive committee needs to take any action.

Fellows reports: Foster and AIP State Department fellows will be invited to the next meeting in January.

2. APS Exec Board/Council News – Bo Hammer

APS general elections are over. Curtis Callan of Princeton Univ. elected as VP.

APS is involved in energy efficiency related studies and industrial physics issues. Holding a special session on March 12th to address topics such as how industries can support the innovation needed for moving forward – exclusive session for 20 hand-picked people. On March 9, a session for about 80 grad students and postdocs on energy research is being organized.

An APS energy study group chaired by Burt Richter is charged with producing a report on energy efficiency. The study will focus primarily on buildings and

transportation, which together account for more than 70 percent of the total domestic carbon emissions. For more info, go to

<http://www.aps.org/publications/capitolhillquarterly/200709/richter.cfm>

POPA is increasing activity in the nuclear arena focusing on technical needs – energy efficiency, nuclear forensics, nuclear weapons in 21st century, nuclear workforce study. APS & AAPT want to double the number of physics majors to meet national needs. There seems to be a deficit of nuclear engineers/scientists with post-graduate degrees and radio-analytical chemists. DOE pulled out support for nucl. Engg. program too soon assuming that the situation is under control but the number of postgraduates do not meet the demand. Concerning nuclear weapons issue, there was a question as to how classified material will be dealt with in such an APS-sponsored study.

We also discussed the new “Scientists & Engineers for America” initiative. This is to encourage and help more scientists and engineers to run for political office, to get involved in local governments and school boards, to become active in policy-making activities.

3. Elections/Nominations – Phil Taylor
Have 2 candidates for vice-chair – Charles Ferguson and George Reiter. For the forum councilor slot, Bo Hammer (our current Councilor) will run again. Need to find another candidate. For the 4 Exec Committee slots, there are three candidates so far - - Mark Goodman, Brian Schwartz, Milton Cole. There is a call for nominations in the P&S Oct. Newsletter and a list of people to contact to find a 4th candidate. It is hoped that the election can be completed this calendar year. Pushpa will contact Marc Sher and let him know the tentative plan.
4. Energy Study and an FPS/APS/AAPT sponsored short course
Barbara could not join the meeting. (Pushpa forgot to invite Dave Hafemeister.) Barbara had sent the brochure they have put together announcing the course on “Physics of Sustainable Energy” and some details. The course is to be held on March 1-2 at Univ. of California, Berkeley.
5. Annual APS Meetings – Andrew Zwicker

March Meeting: Oct. 12 deadline for submission of session titles/speaker list

1) Katrina-related session (Levi)

Session will be March 11 @ 8 am. Speaker list nearly complete

2) New Orleans physics dept. session and “Physics and Art” session (Taylor, Zwicker)

Our second session is scheduled for March 13 @ 11:15 am. Need to co-sponsor both or drop one (Phys and Art)

April Meeting: Nov. 9 deadline for submission of session titles/speaker list

1) Space Debris (Tannenbaum) Tuesday @ 1:30 pm

Potential Speakers: David Wright, Geoff Forden, Nick Johnson, Don Kessler

2) Nuclear Forensics (Zimmerman, Prosnitz, Tannenbaum) Sunday 1:15 pm
Potential Speakers: Mike May, Don Barr, Ian Hutcheson, Hans Binnenkijk

3) Manhattan Project (Zwicker) - Co-sponsored with History - Sunday, 10:30 am
Up to \$1,000 from FPS for travel costs associated with this session
Speakers: Cynthia Kelly, Val Fitch
Round table discussion with veterans of MP

4) Global Gender Issues (Zwicker) - Co-sponsored with FIP – Saturday 1:30 pm
Speakers/Panel: Ana Cetto, Ling-An Wu, Giulia Pancheri, Renee Clair, Melissa Franklin, Meg Urry.

6. APS Fellowships: Did not have anyone from the Fellowship committee to discuss this year's activities and nominations. Don will contact Barry Berman.

7. FPS Student Fellowships – Bo Hammer

Soliciting applications. November 15th is the deadline. This year we had 4 or 5 applications and awarded 2 fellowships. Hoping for more competition next year.

8. Awards Committee:

Pete was not at the meeting. Andrew told us about the awardees.

Nicholson Medal goes to David Landau of University of Georgia. He will be speaking at the March meeting.

Sakharov Prize will be awarded to Liangying Xu of Chinese Academy of Sciences "For a lifetime's advocacy of truth, democracy and human rights ..." He is supposedly would not be allowed to come out of China to receive the prize and there was some discussion of that.

Szilard Prize: Anatoli Diyakov, Pavel Podvig

The Joseph Burton/Forum Award to Pierre Goldschmidt, retired Deputy Director General for Safeguards of the IAEA.

9. Public Event on "Science and American Competitiveness" -- Pushpa /Lawrence

Pushpa had circulated a couple of paragraphs of a letter to be sent to APS and AAS to request sponsorship of the event to be held in Chicago in mid-May 2008. It was agreed that the first thing to do is for Pushpa to talk to Mike Lubell to get some initial response. Also, talk to Alan Chodos who is in-charge of Public Outreach and Public

Education at the APS. (Mike was at the April meeting when it was first discussed and was in support of it.) Then, Ruth can discuss this with POPA.

Also, it was felt that the estimated cost of \$75K is a bit steep. This number is supposed to have about 50% contingency. Pushpa and Lawrence had been thinking of applying to Sloan or McArthur Foundation for a grant of about \$50K. But, it is not clear that FPS can directly apply for such grants. The possibility of having the event at a lower scale with Chicago area labs, universities and museums co-sponsoring it was also proposed for consideration.

10. Finances:

Pushpa reported that she received email from Mike Stephens, (Accounting, APS) that the FPS balance as of the end of September was ~\$41K. This is same as what we had at the end of last year. She has not been receiving monthly reports; Mike was made aware of the fact and he is going to take care of that next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 AM CDT.