



**NEW YORK STATE SECTION  
AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY**

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
105<sup>st</sup> Semi-annual Symposium  
146<sup>th</sup> Meeting of NYSS/APS  
October 7, 2011  
Oneonta College of SUNY, NY

Time: 9:00 AM

Members Present: Chair, Sunil Labroo (13); Secretary/Treasurer, Gianfranco Vidali (13);  
Executive Committee: John Noe (13); Bruce White (13); Jim Hannon (13); Erica Snow (13); Jill  
Linz (15); David Trauernicht (15), Michael Kotlarchyk; (13); Jay Newman (15), Mike Wood (15).

Members Absent: Michael Rogers(13); Harold Hastings (15), Scott Heinekamp (15)

- 1. Approval of minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting at the 2011 Spring Symposium at the University of Albany - SUNY:**
  - a. Motion to approve the minutes as amended was put forward by Erica Snow and seconded by Bruce White. It was approved unanimously.
  
- 2. Report of the Local Committee – Sunil Labroo:**
  - a. Presently there are 90 registered attendees of which 6 retirees/high-school teachers, and 62 students; 45 banquet tickets were sold and 7 posters were submitted (6 from students). The Provost of SUNY Oneonta will contribute \$1,000 and \$500 will be donated by the company Superpower. This meeting is organized in conjunction with the AAPT- NYSS Upstate chapter. Sunil reported that the local AAPT seems rather disorganized and it was a problem to obtain a commitment from them to run the joint meeting. Therefore, the board meeting of AAPT-NYSS has been cancelled. The after-dinner speaker is Dr. Ivar Giaever. Given the publicity that was given to Dr. Giaever's resignation from APS following the stance that APS took about the controversy surrounding climate change, it was decided that eventual questions to Dr. Giaever on climate change or global warming will be ruled off-topic. John Noe sent an email to the members of this committee containing some words of advice by Gene S. of APS on how to handle questions from the audience on off-topics.
  
- 3. Posters – see Appendix B**
  - a. Reminder of the policy: (PASSED October 15, 2004) the judging committee may award prizes (up to \$600) FOR POSTERS categories at the discretion of the judges. An anonymous donor gave \$400 for poster prizes. Local poster judging committee: John Noe, Jill Linz, and Jim Michels (local organizing committee).
  - b. Results of posters judging – **See Appendix B**
  
- 4. Student support – Bruce White – see Appendix A**
  - a. 12 students asked support (2 from Brookhaven National Lab., 8 from Binghamton University, and 2 from University of Buffalo - SUNY).

- b. Reminder of the policy passed at the Executive Committee Meeting, Spring 2011: up to \$100 per requesting student for deferring travel costs to attend the Symposium (see guidelines on the Web for expenses eligible for reimbursement). The student support coordinator has the discretion to reimburse a higher amount/student.

**5. Secretary/Treasurer's report – Gianfranco Vidali – see Appendix C**

- a. Assets with APS as of 8/31/2010 are \$36,207.21) from registration for the current Fall 2011 Symposium. APS can sweep our PayPal account, making the handling of registration fees a bit easier. However, PayPal charges a 3% fee on each transaction and it is still time-consuming to reconcile the PayPal registration record with the one obtained at registration by the local committee. Bruce White is going to explore whether APS can handle the registration to our symposia.

**6. Future Symposia**

- a. **Spring 2012** – SUNY Binghamton. Topic: Energy
- b. **Fall 2012** – Canisius College – topic to be decided between *Water* and *Neutrino Physics*.
- c. Sunil said that Scott H (Wells College) might be interested in sponsoring a future symposium.

**7. Newsletter**

- a. It was agreed to publish one newsletter a year. No action was taken about setting up an Editorial Board. It was deemed sufficient that the Editor be the one that exercises discretion. A disclaimer appeared in the 2011 issue.

**8. Outreach (Jill Linz)**

- a. One proposal was received: it was submitted by the Long Island Science Center. This Center was already awarded a grant at the Fall 2010 Executive Committee Meeting at Hofstra University. Erica moved that the proposer clarify the vague language in the budget and submit a report about the activities sponsored by the grant they received a year ago from the NYSS-APS. Jay Newman seconded and it was approved unanimously, It was decided to update the guidelines to reflect the approved changes about reporting (motion presented and approved at the Spring 2011 Executive Committee meeting: **The acceptance of the award requires the awardee(s)' attendance and presentation of a poster about the supported project at a future symposium within two years of the award. The awardees will still need to submit a written report. Additional financial support to enable the attendance of awardees will be given by the Section.)** and to tighten the budget requirements.

**9. Report of the Fall 2010 Symposium (Hofstra University)**

- a. See Appendix D

**10. New Business**

Sunil brought up the issue whether symposium speakers should be reimbursed for travel expenses. **It was decided that the local committee in consultation with the vice-chair should consider travel reimbursements along side with considerations of keeping within the budget.**

11. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 pm (David Trauernicht moved, seconded by Jill Linz). It passed unanimously.

## Appendix A – Student Travel Support

1. Zhenzhong Shi (University at Buffalo - 2 students)  
\$200
2. Kun Gao (Syracuse University - 1 student)  
\$100
3. Hamilton Carter (New Mexico St. University visiting Brookehaven, 2 Students)  
\$200
4. Robert Makin (Canisius, 3 students)  
\$270

## Appendix B – Student Poster Awards

NYSSAPS Fall 2011 Meeting Poster Session

Anonymous Donor Award for the most inspiring research and presentation - \$400

Anthony Frachioni

Advisor: Bruce White, SUNY Binghamton

Title: Anderson Localization of Phonons in Random Multilayer Thin Films

NYSS APS awards - \$200 each

Phillip Arndt

Advisor: Michael Grady, SUNY Fredonia

Title: An Explanation of Confinement in a Quantum Chromodynamic Vacuum Lattice Gauge Theory: An Issue of Artifacts

Scott Suriano

Advisor/Collaborators: Martha Haynes, Ricardo Giovanelli, Cornell University

Title: Galaxy Properties in ZwCl 1400.4+0949

## Appendix C

As of 8/31/2011 with APS we had a balance of \$ 36,207.21. The year before at the same time, 8/31/2010 we had \$ 42,164.23. This figure doesn't include the liability of \$ 6,944.94 that was paid to the University of Rochester for expenses incurred in the hosting of the spring 2009 symposium. Therefore this year's balance is slightly better than last year's. The last Symposia ran modest deficits (less than \$1,000 apiece). **It is important to remind local organizing committees to keep their budgets at the break-even point or with modest (<\$1,000) deficits.**

## Appendix D

### Total Registrants 116

Students 66

Non-students / HS Teachers / Retirees 50

Note: There were a few (~ 4 or 5) HS teachers who attended the AAPT workshop but did not register for the symposium.

### INCOME:

Registration / Banquet: Checks	\$980.00
Paypal (Net)	\$1,412.79
Cash	\$260.00
Grants: Superpower Inc.	\$500.00
Provost	\$1,000.00
Total:	<b>\$4,152.79</b>

### EXPENSES:

Catering / Rentals	\$4,441.98
Refund to AAPT (Workshop)	\$180.00
Website	\$100.00
Speakers: Mark Ketchen	\$100.00
Venkat Selvamanickam	\$450.00
Ivar Giaever	\$55.00
Total:	<b>\$(5,326.98)</b>

**The net cost to NYSS APS  
for this meeting is**

**\$(1,174.19)**

Submitted on April 10, 2012 by Sunil Labroo.