



**NEW YORK STATE SECTION
AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY**

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
109th Semi-annual Symposium
150th Meeting of NYSS/APS
November 15, 2013
Philips Research Laboratory, Briarcliff NY

Time: 7:30:00 PM

Members Present: Chair - Michael Rogers (15); vice-chair: Bruce White (15); Secretary/Treasurer Gianfranco Vidali (16); Executive Committee: Sunil Labroo (17); Carl Ventrice (17); Harold Hastings (15); John Noe (17); Jay Newman (15); Abigail Flower (17); Michael Hennessy (17)

Members Absent: Scott Heinekamp (15); Erica Snow (17); David Trauernicht (15); Ken Podolak (17); Michael Wood (15)

1. Approval of minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting at the 2013 Spring Symposium at Wells College:

Sunil moved to approve the minutes as amended: Add the result of the special election to replace the resignation of newly elected Natalia Connolly of Hamilton College – Abby Flower (Philips Research Laboratory) was unanimously elected in an e-mail election conducted in April 2013; Bruce seconded. It was approved unanimously.

2. Report of the Local Committee – Abigail Flower (Philips Research Laboratory):

- a. Preliminary numbers for this meeting: 71 people have signed up (3 senior from high-school, 47 students, 9 teachers retirees); there are 12 posters. Since Pace University donated the use of the facilities, the local committee decided to let Pace faculty attend for free.
- b. **Posters – see Appendix A**
 - (i) Reminder of the policy: (PASSED October 15, 2004 with amount revised at the last meeting) the judging committee may award prizes (up to \$800) for posters in categories at the discretion of the judges. Poster judging committee: Harold, Carl and a local person (to be selected).
 - (ii) Results of posters judging – **See Appendix A**
- c. **Student support**
 - (i) There were no requests;
 - (ii) Reminder of the policy passed at the Executive Committee Meeting, Spring 2013 **Overall student support maximum is increased to \$150 per student for travel and hotel. To encourage pre-planning, student support requests received two weeks prior to the symposium will receive full consideration for full reimbursement of expenses (double occupancy and ride sharing) pending availability of funds. Students are expected to pursue alternative sources of funding also. The total amount to be allotted per symposium for this purpose is \$2500. Amounts exceeding this need prior approval of the Executive Committee.**

3. Secretary/Treasurer's report –Gianfranco

At the end of October 2013 the net in our account was \$48,318.25. The income comes from dues (\$10,044) and investments (\$1,202.48). Last year at the same time we had a net of \$38,173.17 with income from dues of (\$10,044) and investments (\$1,014.88).

With recent Symposia running small or no deficits (not counting student travel support and poster prizes, typically less than \$4,000 per year) and with fewer grants given out per year, we have steadily increased our funds. This situation is of concern. It might signal that we are not serving our membership adequately. It might also raise fiscal reporting issues.

How do we remedy this?

- a. Increase the number and size of the Outreach grants; however, we are competing with a similar initiative from APS (\$10k grants);
- b. Increase the financial support for students to attend Symposia;
- c. Allocate a budget for partial travel reimbursements for speakers at Symposia;
- d. At the next Units Convocation in February, Gianfranco will inquire about activities other state sections spend their money on.

Discussion:

It was proposed to have a budget for deferring speaker expenses. Gianfranco will check with APS whether it is more convenient to give speakers an Outreach grant honorarium vs. partial travel reimbursement.

1. Sunil motioned to **increase the maximum size of an Outreach grant to \$2,000. The total amount of money allocated to Outreach grants per funding cycle will be decided depending on the financial situation at that time.** Abby seconded the motion and the motion passed. The deadline to submit a grant application is set now to one week before the Symposium. Harold will revise the guidelines.
2. To publicize our Outreach program, John will find ways to increase the distribution of our newsletter. For example, it could be distributed electronically to all colleges and universities in NYS.

4. Future Symposia

- a. Spring 2014: SUNY Oswego 2014 – Theme: Astrophysics; date: April 25-26. It will be hosted in the new Science Building. A co-sponsorship with the Astronomical Society of New York will be explored. Registration will be handled by APS;
- b. Fall 2014: SUNY Plattsburgh. The theme is yet to be decided;
- c. Discussion: As it has become harder to find hosts for the Symposia, a discussion took place on whether to have one or two symposia per year. The Bylaws stipulate that we hold two meetings per year. Since amending and implementing revised Bylaws would require time, and since the urgency of finding sites for symposia has lessened, it was decided to keep the format of the meetings flexible. For example, holding a symposium plus a meeting with a flexible format every year would still satisfy the Bylaws and would reduce the pressure on the local committees;
- d. Tied to the organization of symposia is the goal to increase attendance. Here are some proposal that emerged from the discussion:
 - i. Seek the participation of high-school teachers. There shouldn't be difficult to attest their participation to symposia in such a way that it might be helpful for their career development;
 - ii. Increase activities for students, such as lunch with speakers or experts, and talks from people who are successful in their careers, especially outside academia.

5. Outreach – Harold

There were no proposals submitted. See discussion above (Secretary/Treasurer's report) on ways to publicize the Outreach Program.

6. New Business

Bodhi suggested that the Web page should be updated with information on the history of the society.

7. Sunil moved that the meeting be adjourned. Abby seconded it and it was unanimously approved.

Appendix A - Fall 2013 Student Poster Awards

1. Jeffrey Snyder
Amount: \$150
2. David Li
Amount: \$150
3. Rachel Sampson
Amount: \$100
4. Jasen Vita
Amount: \$100
5. Emma Kast
Amount: \$100
6. Ben Coe
Amount: \$100
7. Jiyou Jennifer Ha
Amount: \$100

Appendix B - Report of Spring 2013 Symposium at Wells College

Financial Report: NYSS-APS Symposium Spring 2013

Wells College

Total Registrants:	82
Students:	40
APS members	21
Speakers	10
Non-Students/HS Teachers/Retirees/Friends:	11
No-Shows:	2

INCOME

Registration/Banquet Checks:	\$805.00	
Registration/Banquet Paypal:	\$1245.00	
Registration/Banquet Cash:	\$80.00	
Registration/Banquet Credit Card:	\$275.00	
Dean of College Contribution:	\$437.32	
Other Donations:	\$50.00	(TeachSpin)

Income Total: \$2892.32

EXPENSES

Catering:	\$2716.85	
Rentals:	\$40.00	(Lodging)
After-Dinner Speaker Support:		
Other Speaker Support:		
PayPal Fees:	\$34.59	
Parking:		
Name Badges:		
Printing:		
Folders/Inserts:	\$100.88	

Expenses Total: _____ **\$2892.32** _____

Student Support \$200.00
Poster Awards \$800.00

Net Cost to NYSSAPS: \$1000.00

Submitted by Scott Heinekamp, Wells College