



**NEW YORK STATE SECTION
AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY**

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
111th Semi-annual Symposium
152nd Meeting of NYSS/APS
September 25, 2014
SUNY Plattsburgh, NY

Time: 9:10 am

Members Present: Chair - Michael Rogers (15); vice-chair: Bruce White (15); Secretary/Treasurer Gianfranco Vidali (17); Executive Committee: Sunil Labroo (17); Carl Ventrice (17); Harold Hastings (15); Ken Podolak (17); Erica Snow (17) participated by conference call to: approval of minutes and to a discussion on the upcoming Symposium at SUNY-Fredonia

Members Absent: Jay Newman (15); Abigail Flower (17); Michael Hennessy (17); John Noe (17); Scott Heinekamp (15); Erica Snow (17); David Trauernicht (15); Michael Wood (15)

1. Approval of minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting at the 2014 Spring Symposium at SUNY-Oswego:

Sunil moved to approve the minutes; Bruce seconded. They were unanimously approved.

2. Review of Steps Taken to Action Items - Bodhi:

- a. Changes on the Web page about the new Outreach guidelines have been made;
- b. Programs of symposia - especially the old ones – need to be collected and made available on the Web;
- c. Discussion about reimbursement for speakers; a motion was put forward by Sunil: At the discretion of local committee, speakers be given a partial reimbursement of travel expenses. Funds should be sought from institutions. The Section will provide funds for travel reimbursement up to a total of \$1,000. Bruce seconded and it was approved unanimously.

3. Report of the Local Committee – Ken Podolak (SUNY Plattsburgh):

- a. Preliminary numbers for this meeting: about 50 attendees, 40 for the banquet. The meeting is run in conjunction with the Astronomy Society of New York. There are 10 posters and 10 talks.
- 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: Bruce, Sunil and a local faculty member (Michael Walters).
 - (ii) Results of posters judging – **See Appendix A**
- c. **Student support – Ken**
 - (i) There were no requests for travel support from students;
 - (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.**

d Suggestions for future Symposia - Bodhi

There was a discussion on how to increase the number of students attending the Symposia and the banquets. It was decided that: a. Leave to the discretion of the Local Committee whether local students would get free banquet tickets; b. Sunil proposed that the Local Committee hire up to 3 students with a stipend of \$200 each to document the Symposium and advertise it using social media. Ken seconded. Because there wasn't a quorum, the vote will occur via email. C. Bodhi proposed to get the SPS chapters involved in publicizing Symposia

4. Secretary/Treasurer's report –Gianfranco

At the end of August 2014, the latest financial statement available from APS shows we have \$54,132.01. At the same time last year we had \$47,779.05. Dues from APS amount to \$10,096.00 vs. \$10,044.00 a year ago. Currently there are 2524 NYSS members, slightly above the 2013 number, 2511 members. However, the percentage of NYSS members with respect to the total APS membership declined from 5.06% to 4.99%. The investment income is \$1,097.85 vs. \$963.28 a year ago. The total revenue (APS dues, registration fees, banquet, investment) is \$14,545.23 vs. \$13,821.03 last year. Expenses (food, travel grants, outreach grant) are \$7,090.13 vs. \$6,066.63 last year. The Report of the Spring 2014 Symposium at SUNY-Oswego is in Appendix B.

Last year at the Fall meeting I proposed to increase outlays as follows:

- a. Increase the number and size of the Outreach grants; we have to keep in mind that 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.

Since then, we

- a. Increased the size of Outreach grants to \$2,000 per grant; we recommended to increase the visibility of our Outreach Program via the distribution of the newsletter to colleges and universities in NYS.
- b. At the Spring 2013 meeting we decided to increase the student support maximum for attending symposia to \$150. The total financial support is capped at \$2,500 per Symposium.
- c. We agreed at the Spring 2014 meeting that the Section would provide funds for speakers' travel expenses not exceeding a total of \$1,000. It is recommended that funds for speakers' travel expenses be sought from institutions.

4. Future Symposia

- a. Spring 2015: SUNY – Fredonia. April 24/25. Topic: Quantum Computing. Erica (via conference call) asked for help in finding speakers.
- b. Vassar College; tentative topic: Physics and Art
- c. Sarah Lawrence
- d. RIT (Scott Franklin)

5. Outreach – Harold

There were no proposals submitted. There was a discussion on how to generate interest in our Outreach grants. It is necessary to increase visibility (for example through SPS and the newsletter distributed to all colleges and universities in NYS) and to simplify the application process, for example by providing a Web form to be filled out. We should also have on a Web site a list of titles of recent grants with accompanying documentation of activities that were initiated with grant support.

6. Newsletter -

To ease John's work in putting together the Newsletter, it was suggested to use student reporters, see "Suggestions for future symposia" above.

7. Nominating Committee - Bruce

An election will be held at the beginning of 2015. As per Bylaws, the Vice-Chair heads the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee was appointed by the Chair; it consists of Bruce White (Chair), Carl Ventrice, Sunil Labroo, and a member to be appointed by APS. Gianfranco will run the election. Bruce sent APS a list of names for the external member. They were rejected because they were affiliated with the NYSS in the last 5 years. Additional names were proposed. Bruce is waiting for an answer. It was ascertained that the proposed list of nominees satisfies requirements of diversity.

8. Old Business

Bodhi reported that he is working with APS to collect and post programs of past Symposia and other important historical information about the NYS.

9. New Business

Bodhi asked to put on the agenda of the next meeting a follow-up on the initiatives of this committee

Sunil moved that the meeting be adjourned (12 pm). Harold seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Appendix A - Fall 2014 Student Poster Awards

Undergraduate Category:

1st Prize (\$200) "The experimental and theoretical investigation of the Belousov-Zhabotinsky Reaction: effects of catalyst and organic acid" Sofia Rafikova, Joseph Leonard and Niah Holtz. Advisors: Harold Hastings, David Myers, and Patty Dooley. Bard College at Simon's Rock

Runners up (\$50 each)

"PIXE Analysis of Atmospheric Aerosol Samples in an Urban Area in Upstate NY" Benjamin Nadareski, Alina ali, Josh Yoskowitz, Michael vineyard, Scott Labrake, Union College

"PIXE Analysis of Aerosol and Soil Samples Collected in the Adirondack Mountains" Joshua T. Yoskowitz, Salina F. Ali, Benjamin J. Nadareski, Scott M. LaBrake, Michael F. Vineyard Union College

"Proton-Induced X-Ray Emission Analysis of Crematorium Emissions" Salina Ali, Benjamin Nadareski, Josh Yoskowitz, Scott Labrake, Michael Vineyard, Union College

"Speak for the trees" Ryan Revette & Eric Leibensperger SUNY Plattsburgh

Graduate Category:

1st Prize (\$100) "Influence of Substrate Orientation on the Growth of Graphene on Cu Single Crystal Surfaces" Tyler R. Mowll, Zachary R. Robinson, Parul Tyagi, Eng WenOng, Carl A. Ventrice, Jr. SUNY College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, Albany

Appendix B –Report of Spring 2014 Symposium at SUNY - Oswego

Total Registrants:	52
Students:	27
APS members	15
Speakers:	10
Non-Students/HS Teachers/Retirees/Friends	0
N-Shows:	0
INCOME	
Registration:	\$1,035.00
PAYPAL	\$736.38
Checks:	\$200.00
Banquet:	\$1,260.00
Banquet – checks:	\$180.00
SUNY Oswego Contribution:	\$114.04
NYSS-APS Contribution:	\$934.87
INCOME Total:	\$4,460.29
EXPENSES	
Catering:	\$4,346.25
Printing/Folders/Badges	\$114.04
EXPENSES TOTAL	\$4,460.29

Submitted by S. M. Kanbur, SUNY Oswego