



**NEW YORK STATE SECTION
AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY**

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
110th Semi-annual Symposium
151th Meeting of NYSS/APS
April 25, 2014
SUNY Oswego, 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); John Noe (17); Scott Heinekamp (15); Erica Snow (17); David Trauernicht (15); Ken Podolak (17); Michael Wood (15)

Members Absent: Jay Newman (15); Abigail Flower (17); Michael Hennessy (17)

1. Approval of minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting at the 2013 Fall Symposium at Philips Research Laboratories:

Harold moved to approve the minutes: Ken 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 – Shashi Kanbur (SUNY Oswego):

- a. Preliminary numbers for this meeting: 94 people have signed up, mostly students. The meeting is run in conjunction with the Astronomy Society of New York. There are about 25 ASNY registered participants. There are 10 posters and 10 contributed talks. After the banquet a planetarium show and an outside star pizza party are scheduled, weather permitting. SUNY Oswego donated \$1,500 to offset the Symposium expenses.
- 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, Scott and a local faculty member (Dale Zych). The SUNY Plattsburg group will take photos during the Symposium for posting on the Newsletter.
 - (ii) Results of posters judging – **See Appendix A**
- c. **Student support – Ken- see Appendix B**
 - (i) There were travel support requests from students from 3 universities/colleges for a total amount of \$690;
 - (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.

4. Secretary/Treasurer's report –Gianfranco

At the end of February 2014, the net in our account was \$50,306.72. This year's APS dues are \$10,096. The investment income in 2013 was \$1,440.91.

The dues last year were at \$10,044; the investment income for 2012 was \$1,212.10. The dues are linked to the number of NYSS members. The current count is 2,395. The official 2014 count is 2,524 for 4.99% of membership. The membership has been stable in the last 4 years. However, since the overall APS membership has increased, the % of NYSS members has declined from 5.22 % to 4.99 %. The Units receive \$4 per member.

The major outlays per Symposium are:

- Cost of hosting the Symposium (facilities fees, catering, banquet);
- Student travel support;
- Poster Awards;
- Outreach Grants;

Typically, a Symposium runs a deficit of \$1,000 to \$2,000; student travel support varies greatly and is usually less than \$1,000. Poster awards amount to \$800 or less. Outreach grant expenditures are usually in the range of \$2,000 to \$3,000. Thus, per Symposium we might expect to have a loss of \$5,000 to \$7,000. Given that our income is of the order of \$11,000 per year, a Symposium running a deficit of around \$5,000 is sustainable.

The financial report of the 109th Symposium at Philips Research Laboratory/Pace University (Fall 2013) is in Appendix C.

4. Future Symposia

- a. Fall 2014: SUNY Plattsburgh. The theme is yet to be decided between climate physics and materials physics; most members of the committee were in favor of the climate physics theme. Ken asked for help in identifying potential speakers. Given the proximity of Plattsburgh to Montreal, it was suggested to contact colleagues at McGill and other universities. A committee (Bodhi, Gianfranco, Ken, and Michael Walters) was formed to oversee the organization of the SUNY Plattsburgh Symposium
- b. Vassar College
- c. SUNY – Fredonia Topic: quantum computing
- d. Sarah Lawrence
- e. RIT (Scott Franklin)

5. Outreach – Harold

There were two proposals submitted. One was from the Fulton-Montgomery Community College, Physics and Astronomy Educational Outreach Program. Requested \$ 1,531.61. It was approved. The second was from Pace University, Pace Lady Techies Summer Camp. Requested \$ 2000 for salaries. It was sent back for reconsideration: the Section does not fund salaries, and the role of the grant in the project was unclear.

6. Newsletter - John

John was commended for doing a nice job in producing the 2014 Newsletter. APS has been very supportive in the technical aspects (formatting, distribution through a new email program, etc.)

7. Nominating Committee - Bodhi

An election will be held at the beginning of 2015. As per By-Laws, 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.

8. New Business

Bodhi suggested that the Web page should be updated with information on the history of the society. Gianfranco reminded to save receipts connected to travel reimbursements and Outreach grants.

7. Sunil moved that the meeting be adjourned (11:30 am). Ken seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Appendix A - Spring 2014 Student Poster Awards

1st Place. Jason Spellman, Thomas Urtz, advisor: Ken Podolak. Hysteresis of granular iron-nickel blends, SUNY Plattsburgh Amount: \$100 each

2nd Place: Sumit Dahal, advisor: Joseph Gelfand, *Is SNR G12.8-0.0 really associated with star forming region W33?*, Abu Dhabi University, New York University; and Peter Vaillancourt, Joshua Thomas (advisor), Aileen O'Donohue (advisor), *Modeling a radial velocity distribution of a galaxy cluster*
Amount: \$100 each

Appendix B – Student Travel Support for Spring 2014 Symposium

1. Kajee Kodrich-Quick
Laurens, NY 13796
Amount: \$216.51

2. Samantha Malcolm
Hartwick College
Oneonta, NY 13820
Amount: \$209.86

3. Scott Heinekamp
Wells College
Aurora, NY 13026
Amount: \$255.28

4. Peter Vaillancourt
Potsdam, NY 13676
Amount \$130.62

Appendix C –Report of Fall 2013 Symposium at Philips Research Laboratory/Pace University

Financial Report: NYSS-APS Symposium Fall 2013

Philips Research Laboratory/Pace University

Total Registrants:	83
Students:	49
APS members	10
Speakers	9
Non-Students/HS Teachers/Retirees/Friends:	11
No-Shows:	4
Total Number of Posters:	15

INCOME

Registration/Advance regular:	\$350.00
Registration/Advance teachers/retirees:	\$275.00
Registration/Door retirees :	\$120.00
Philips Contribution:	\$500.00

Income Total: \$1245.00

EXPENSES

Catering:	\$1647.02
Venue	\$0.00
Name Badges:	\$213.25

Expenses Total: \$1860.27

Net Cost to NYSSAPS: \$615.27

Submitted by Abigail A. Flower, PhD