

FIP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Saturday, April 5, 2014
Hyatt Regency Savannah
Savannah, Georgia

Ercan Alp, Chair of the Forum on International Physics, called the meeting to order at 8:35 am.

Members present: Sergio Ulloa, Ercan Alp, Ed Berger, Ernie Malamud, Young-Kee Kim, Alex de Lozanne, Christine Darve, Maria (Marilena) Longobardi, Maria Spiropulu, and Noemi Mirkin

Members absent: Luisa Cifarelli, Sultana Nahar and Susan Seestrom.

Guests (throughout the day): Kate Kirby and Amy Flatten

Alp welcomed everybody and asked the new members of the Executive Committee, Maria Longobardi and Young-Kee Kim to introduce themselves. A round of self-introductions followed.

Mirkin suggested two new items to the agenda: the Wheatley Award and the election of the Newsletter editor. The meeting agenda, including the new items, was approved.

The minutes of the March 2013 meeting were reviewed. Minutes approved.

By acclamation, Errnie Malamud was elected to another 3-year term as Newsletter Editor.

Report of the Secretary/Treasurer:

Noemi Mirkin presented a detailed written financial report. Summary of the 2013 FY - Revenue: \$24,535.14, this includes the \$20,000 allocation from APS; Expenses: \$23,119.28; Balance: \$1,415.86. Included in these expenses are the support for the invited speakers at the 2013 March and April meetings, registration fee waivers, ExCom members travel, meeting meals, newsletter printing, the March reception, and a contribution of \$4,000 to the International Travel Grant Award program..

Mirkin reminded everyone that, in view of the very large differences in Forum reserves, the procedures for funding the Forums were modified. Starting in 2011, eligibility for funding in a given year is based on the prior year's annual average reserves. Forums will receive additional funding only if their prior-year's average reserves fall below a cap of \$50,000. Forums eligible for funding will have a fixed amount added to their reserves. In 2011 that amount was \$20,000 per Forum. In 2012 we had \$0.00 allocated to our reserves because our annual average for 2011 was \$51,628.

For the current FY period 1/1/14-2/28/14 - Revenue: \$21,054.97 (this includes the \$20,000 allocation); Expenses: \$0. Pending expenses- March: reception, speakers. April: ExCom meeting and speakers.

The official 2014 membership count for FIP is 3,779, which corresponds to 7.47 % of an APS total membership of 50,578. An increase in numbers, but a slight decrease in % compared to last year. Total APS membership shows an increase of 1.9 % compared to last year (49,653).

Mirkin pointed out that given that our \$ allocation is not tied to FIP membership any longer, it seems that we have no financial incentive to add new members. On the other hand, we need to maintain a certain percentage of the total membership to keep our APS councilor and the number of sessions at the meetings. Therefore, we need to continue recruiting new members. We will have sign up sheets at our sessions and at the reception.

The treasurer's report was approved.

Report from the Past Chair:

Sergio Ulloa gave a brief summary of the 2013 activities. He stated that we need to communicate better about deadlines and duties. He suggested that every year we have a follow up to this meeting via conference call. He also suggested that we create a calendar with all the deadlines and responsibilities of the ExCom members. Sergio made a draft of such table/calendar and will email it to the rest of the Committee. Since some of these responsibilities rotate, he also suggested that each officer that is leaving brief the incoming one.

He also suggested that every year we solicit funds from APS for the ITGAP. He did this twice and successful once.

Report from APS Council:

Young-Kee Kim was not able to personally attend the Council meeting because her flight was cancelled. She attended via conference call. She gave a summary of the most important issues discussed in the meeting:

- APS membership statistics: 28% students, 23% international, 17% employed by government & national labs, 10% of US, non-student members - in industry, 12% women
- Discussion about the status of the March and April Meetings
- Recommendations of the Early Career Task Force
- APS developing a digital strategy

International Travel Grant Award Program:

Ed Berger, Chair of the Evaluation committee, gave a summary of the last two cycles. Last Fall, we received 15 proposals and this Spring, 23 proposals. There were funds to support only 5, so the process was neither easy nor infallible. He stated that 5 proposals were in the top category. The next two proposals would be included if the APS could support more than 5. The awards are not large -- only \$2,000 -- but can be useful leverage as seed grants. He also noted that it is hard to find referees for these proposals.

Berger then led a discussion on (1) how to get more money into the program; and (2) how to encourage more grant submissions. Malamud proposed another way to make this award more known: include in the Newsletter the names and titles of the awardees.

Young-Kee Kim stated that the name of the award is a bit misleading (ITGAP). She suggested to change the name of the award to International Research Travel Grant. Everybody was in agreement and we will recommend this name change to Amy Flatten.

The Chair of this committee for the next two cycles will be Maria Spiropulu. Berger will share with her all the materials.

Fundraising Activities:

Ulloa reminded everyone that we are blocked from doing any fundraising activities of our own until the Development Task Force presents its report. He asked for a "wish list" now so that we can be ready to start fundraising when the timing is right. The following items were included in the "wish list": increase the number of ITGAP awards; expand the Student Travel program; expand and promote the FIP reception to include students (partnering with FGSA).

Update on Nahar's proposal for bringing Asian and Arab physicists to APS membership:

Nahar could not attend this meeting. Mirkin read her report which dealt with Nahar's visit to India as part of the Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative STEM Education and Research project. This report contains the following proposal: "that the Executive Committee of FIP create a database of speakers from the U.S. who are willing to give presentations in foreign, particularly Third World and Arab countries, and make this database accessible from the FIP website."

Discussion on this request. It is finally decided not to create this database. Kim reported that the University of Chicago, Fermi Lab and Argonne have travel budgets for India.

Student Travel Program:

Mirkin gave a brief summary of the history of this program. The APS Distinguished Student Seminar Series (DS3) was created two years ago following the initiative of FIP and FGSA. The sponsors of the program recognized that bringing outstanding students to an annual APS meeting can be a career changing experience, while at the same time recognizing that funding is often insufficient to meet existing needs and opportunities. Graduate students and exceptional undergraduates from developing countries, working abroad or in the US, or other students working with groups in developing countries, will be selected annually for a DS3 award based on established criteria. Harvey Newman, our Past Chair was spearheading this program. The final version of the announcement of the program was approved by the FIP Executive Committee in 2012.

Unfortunately, we did not follow up on this and the program has not launched yet. Christine Darve will be in charge of getting this program in motion. Mirkin will send her the final program announcement. She will contact Newman and find out how much money we received for this program.

Newsletter:

Ernie Malamud reported that the Spring 2014 issue of the Newsletter has been published. He brought some printed copies of the last two Newsletters to distribute at different venues of this April meeting. Copies were also distributed at our sessions at the March meeting.

He described the process he uses to produce each Newsletter. It takes him ~40 hours to produce an issue. He gave everybody a handout with the summary of contents of the latest 7 Newsletters. The deadline to submit articles for the Fall 2014 Newsletter is August 15, 2014. He is looking for more controversial articles that will give rise to some discussion. The hardest part of his job is to get people to write the articles. The number of articles in each Newsletter is usually 6-8. This latest issue has only 3 articles. Malamud urged everybody present to help him find the authors who are willing to write. Marilena suggested having a theme for the Newsletter. It would make it more attractive.

Ernie Malamud was congratulated for doing a superb job.

Report from the APS Office of International Affairs:

Amy Flatten gave a summary of the international initiatives carried out by her office:

- *CAM2013:* This past year, the Society partnered with the physical societies across North America for the biennial Canadian-American-Mexican Physics Graduate Student Conference (CAM) jointly sponsored by the American Physical Society (APS),

the Canadian Association of Physicists (CAP), and the [Sociedad Mexicana de Física](#) (SMF). CAM2013 was held in Waterloo, Canada and promoted international networking, career development, and encouraged collaborations among North America's physics graduate students. FIP Executive Committee members contributed to the meeting as invited speakers and student mentors.

- *Executive Board Retreat 2013:* For the first time in its history, APS held its Executive Board Retreat outside of the United States. The retreat was held at Chicheley Hall, home of the Kavli Royal Society International Centre, just outside of London, United Kingdom and enabled the leaders of the European Physical Society (EPS), the UK Institute of Physics (IOP), and the German Physical Society (DPG) to discuss new strategies for expanding APS collaboration with European partners.
- *SESAME:* The APS also partnered with EPS, IOP, DPG toward the SESAME Travel Award Program that supports for training opportunities for scientists in the Middle East. The SESAME project--the synchrotron light source in Amman, Jordan, brings together physicists from Arab countries & Israel for international scientific collaboration. SESAME is an outstanding example of science for diplomacy.
- *India & Brazil - Exchange Programs:* This past year, the APS continued its partnerships with the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) and the Sociedade Brasileira de Física (SBF) to offer the Brazil & India Physics Student & Professor Exchange Programs. These Physics Student Exchange Programs offered graduate students opportunities to attend a short-course or summer institute in another country, or work overseas with a professor in his/her field of study. The Professorship/Lectureship Exchange Programs funded physicists wishing to teach a short course or deliver a lecture series in the other country. These programs were highlighted in the last FIP Newsletter and she reminded everybody that there is a call for proposals twice each year (fall and spring). She encouraged FIP members to apply themselves, and also to encourage their students and post-docs to apply as well.
- *Entrepreneurship Workshops:* In partnership with the UK Institute of Physics (IOP) and the Abdu Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the Society continued to co-sponsor workshops designed for physicists and engineers from developing countries who are interested in learning entrepreneurial skills. This past year, two such workshops were held in Durban, South Africa and Chiapas, Mexico.
- *Human Rights:* The Society also partnered with other organizations toward the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition--a network of professional societies providing strengthened connections between the human rights and scientific communities. Through this Coalition, the APS stressed the need for scientific

organizations to advocate for the human rights of scientists in the U.S. and around the world.

- *Marshak & Beller Lectureships:* The Society continues to bring international physicists to speak at APS meetings through both the Marshak and Beller Lectureships, which support distinguished physicists from the developed and developing countries respectively. In 2013, the Marshak Lectureship was awarded to a FIP nominee, Lilia Meza Montes of the Universidad de Puebla, Mexico. Montes delivered her talk, "Women in Physics: Increasing in number, and what else?" at a 2013 March Meeting session organized by the Forum on International Physics titled "Recent Advances in Condensed Matter in Latin America."
- Continued its ongoing commitment to developing country physicists through its International Travel Grant Award Program (ITGAP), which supports developing scientists' travel to visit collaborators in developed countries.

Flatten suggested that the FIP Chair send a letter to the APS president, Kate Kirby and Flatten herself describing the importance and impact of this program, the quality of the proposals and soliciting more funds.

Mirkin thanked Amy Flatten for her contribution to our March reception and her continued support

Report from APS Executive Officer:

Kirby reported that APS membership is at an all time high, 1/3 are students, 17% national labs, 23% international and 13% women. In addition, there is an all time high production of physics undergraduates and Ph.D.s

Kirby reported on the following issues:

- *Early Career Task Force:* This task force came up with recommendations. These recommendations were adopted by the APS Board:
 - Establish local "chapters", supported by APS, to enhance networking opportunities (esp. local industries); career information. The Denver group was the first chapter to be established. Boston, Tampa, Ohio State
 - Raise the profile of non-academic careers in physics/physics-related science (meetings, communications...)

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APS Staff position for an industrial physicist

- *April Meeting Task Force:* Chaired by Tim Gay. We are soliciting input from divisions, topical groups, forums. Can this meeting become a "must-attend"?
- *Development Task Force:* Has already issued its report. As a result, APS has formed a new ad-hoc Development Committee.
- *International Task Force:* This task force has not been formed yet. Flatten and Kirby are working together on this.
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During lunch, we honored two of the 2013 FIP APS Fellows. Alp read the citations and handed out the certificates and pins to Bao-An Li and V. Krishnamurthy.

Review of FIP Sessions at the 2014 March/April APS Meetings:

At the March meeting we had the following invited sessions: "Visa and Immigration Policies for 21st Century Science", "Condensed Matter Physics in China", and "Twentieth-Century Chinese Physicists and Physics" (with FHP); all very well attended. In addition, we co-sponsored a reception with the APS Office of International Affairs and the expatriate organizations (APKA, OPCA, ACIPA, and IrAp). For the first time we also had physicists from Turkey. At this reception we honored several APS 2013 FIP Fellows. AKPA and OCPA presented awards to their members.

At the April Meeting we will have the following sessions: "Large Scale International Facilities I: Photon Sources", "Large Scale International Facilities II: Particle Accelerators", and the "Andrei Sakharov Prize Session".

It is agreed that overall FIP had a good presence at both meetings.

Program for the 2015 March and April Meetings:

Ed Berger will chair the Program Committee. We are allotted three sessions in March and two in April. Initial ideas for these sessions:

- Focus on young physicists and international collaborations
- the young physicists forum will take place the weekend before the March meeting. Maybe we can tie this up with one of our sessions.

- Large scale international facilities
- Participation and funding of large scale international facilities

Longobardi suggested that next year we create a flyer to advertise the FIP activities and distribute it during the meetings.

FIP Web Page:

de Lozanne and Darve volunteered to monitor the FIP web page so as to keep it up to date. They will contact the APS web master if changes are needed.

Elections 2014:

Sergio Ulloa will chair the Nominating Committee. We need to elect a Vice Chair and 2 Members-at-Large. Ulloa will check with Bill Barletta (who chaired the committee last year) to confirm who are the members of this Committee. The timeline of the election process will be the same as the one we had last year: July 15, deadline to receive the nominations; September 1st, the slate of nominees goes to Mirkin in order to set up electronic balloting; September 15th, election is launched. She will send a general announcement to our members soliciting nominations.

APS Fellowships

Ercan Alp will be the Chair of this Committee. The other members of this committee are the members-at-large. The deadline for nominations is May 15th. Mirkin will send a notice to all FIP members soliciting nominations. Shelley Johnston (APS) will contact Alp and the committee with instructions when all the nominations are in.

It is decided that there will be a Fall meeting of the executive Committee via skype, conference call or video chat. Alp will organize it.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Noemi Mirkin