

FIP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Sunday, March 17, 2013
Hilton Baltimore Hotel
Baltimore, Maryland

Sergio Ulloa, Chair of the Forum on International Physics, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Members present: Sergio Ulloa, Ercan Alp, Eugene Chudnovsky, Herman Winick, Sultana Nahar, Carl Akerlof, Alex de Lozanne, Christine Darve and Noemi Mirkin

Members absent: Luisa Cifarelli, Ed Berger and Ernie Malamud.

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

Ulloa welcomed everybody and asked the two new members-at-large, Alex de Lozanne and Christine Darve to introduce themselves.

After a round of self-introductions, the meeting agenda was approved.

The minutes of the March 2012 meeting were reviewed. Minutes approved.

Report of the Secretary/Treasurer:

Noemi Mirkin presented the financial report. Summary of the 2012 FY - Revenue: \$4,935.17 - no allocation from APS, see next paragraph; Expenses: \$18,403.89; Balance: (\$13,468.72). Included in these expenses are the support for the invited speakers at the 2012 March and April meetings, ExCom members travel, meeting meals, newsletter printing, and the March reception.

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. For 2012 we had \$0.00 allocated to our reserves because our annual average for 2011 was \$51,628, even though, at the end of 2011 our total reserves were \$ 47,415.12. They calculated the average for each month by taking the beginning balance plus the ending balance and dividing by 2. Then they added up all the monthly averages and divided by 12.

For the current FY period 1/1/13-1/31/13 - Revenue: \$20,910.87 (this includes the \$20,000 allocation); Expenses: \$0. Pending expenses- March: reception, speakers, ExCom meeting; April: speakers.

The official 2013 membership count for FIP is 3,739, which corresponds to 7.53 % of an APS total membership of 49,653. A decrease in numbers and % compared to last year. Total APS membership shows an decrease of 0.8 % compared to last year (50,055).

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.

Mirkin also reported that at last year's elections our Bylaws were amended to include the APS international councilors as ex-officio members of our Executive Committee.

The treasurer's report was approved.

Report from the Past Chair:

No report because Bill Barletta could not attend this meeting

International Engagement:

Ercan Alp reported on the discussion on international engagement at the Leadership Convocation (old Unit convocation). In its 5 year strategic plan, the APS has made a commitment to increase the representation of its foreign members at all levels. Alp listed the current and new activities.

- Foreign members in leadership roles in all Units.
- More international referees in all the publications.
- More foreign speakers at APS meetings.
- There is a network of international ambassadors.
- There is a network of international friends.
- US-Brazil exchange.
- MOU with the Korean Physical Society.
- Joint meetings with foreign physics organizations.

On the topic of increasing the number of foreign invited speakers there was a discussion on the fact that the Units usually have to pay for this and it is very expensive. Winick suggested that Ulloa write to the different Units asking them how many foreign invited speakers they had in the last 5 years.

Akerlof brought up the issue of mentoring foreign students. NSF wants to know how a PI mentors a foreign student. The special case of Chinese and Iranian students was discussed. A suggestion was made to organize a session with the FGSA on the issue of returning to their countries and how to advise them.

International Travel Grant Award Program:

Ercan Alp, Chair of the Evaluation committee gave a summary of the last two cycles. We had two successful ITGAP competitions, one in the Fall of 2012 (28 proposals and 5 awards) and the other in the Winter of 2013 (26 proposals, 5 awards). He noted that is hard to find referees for these proposals.

The awardees are supposed to write a brief report after they have completed their travel. Mirkin suggested that snippets of those reports could be published in our Newsletter.

Last year this Executive Committee voted to allocate \$4,000 to the ITGAP for two more awards. The APS presidential line matched our contribution. Ulloa proposed that we ask for it again this year.

The Chair of this committee for the next two cycles will be Ed Berger. Alp will share with him all the materials.

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

Sultana Nahar gave a brief summary of the proposal she presented last year. At our last meeting it was moved that Nahar divide her report into doable proposals so that we can forward them to APS.

Ercan Alp noted that the report is still a report and no concrete proposals have been made. Nahar summarized her proposal as: discount membership fee - with limited benefits so that this won't be a major cost to APS; and discount in registration fees at APS meetings. In summary, a different kind of membership with lower cost and less benefits.

Discussion on Nahar's proposal. Ulloa stated that there are programs already in place for physicists of developing countries. Winick suggested to Nahar that she make a list of the significant benefits that exist now. Nahar responded that she still wants to propose this reduced membership fee. Ulloa suggested that we talk to Kirby and Flatten about what they think of this reduced membership. de Lozanne suggested that Nahar's proposal has to be more concrete and to the point. Ercan and Chudnovsky will help Nahar to in this endeavor.

Akerlof suggested that instead of creating a special type of membership, APS should strengthen the ties with the individual physical societies. This will have more impact.

Newsletter:

Ernie Malamud was unable to attend this meeting but he forwarded some comments: His 3-year term as Newsletter editor is coming to an end so he has one more issue to edit. He enjoyed doing this job although the amount of work required is substantial. He will start working on the Fall 2013 issue around June/July. He requested that we forward to him suggestions on format, possible topics, and possible authors. He also requested pictures from the FIP sessions and the reception.

The Spring 2013 issue of the Newsletter has been published. We brought some printed copies of the last two Newsletters to distribute at different venues of this March meeting.

The general consensus was that Ernie Malamud is doing a superb job and that we would like him to run for another 3-year term.

Talking about the Spring 2013 Newsletter, Chudnovsky noted that he felt uneasy about the fact that we have all these foreign societies in the US. He worried that instead of "international" APS is supporting nationalism. Discussion about the fact that these foreign societies are not part of APS. We collaborate with them in different endeavors and they provide excellent contacts for our international activities.

Given that APS wants to increase the number of foreign speakers, Amy Flatten suggested that we include a paragraph in the Fall 2013 newsletter asking FIP members to suggest names of foreign speakers that we could pass on to the scientific Units.

FIP Web Page:

Mirkin reported that the FIP website (www.aps.org/units/fip), managed by APS, is sometimes out of date. She suggested that one of our members-at-large monitor the web page, check to see that everything is up to date, and if not, communicate with the APS webmaster, Sara Conners, regarding the changes. de Lozanne and Darve volunteered for this task.

Report from APS Executive Officer:

Kate Kirby was asked about the possibility of improving the electronics so that invited foreign speakers can give their talks from their own country without having to travel to the US. She responded saying that the technology is not there yet. She reminded

everybody that all the invited talks are uploaded to the APS site and are available to anybody, members and non members.

Kirby reported that APS membership is holding strong and that 21% are international members; financials are stable; reserves have bounced back to where they were before the 2008 debacle; journals are strong; meetings are strong. This March meeting has about 9,000 attendees.

Kirby explained that they rolled out the APS Strategic Plan in May of 2012. This plan sets the following goals that will guide the Society over the next five years:

- to better serve the members
- to better serve the physics community
- to better serve society
- to increase organizational excellence.

Implementation will be done in the next years with participation from staff, leadership and membership. She noted that four task forces will be established:

- development
- early career physicists - how to keep this group engaged
- APS-AIP relationship - given the changes that have occurred on the things they do versus what we do on our own.
- open access

She also reported that on the APS board retreat in June, the focus will be international engagement. She welcomed any suggestions that we may have for possible members of such a task force.

Nahar asked Kirby if there is a possibility of a discounted membership. Kirby responded that Amy Flatten works closely with the membership department on this issue. Flatten will put together a memo, with APS letterhead, explaining that APS has free memberships and how to apply for them. Darve will distribute this memo in the African community; Nahar will do the same in Arab and Asian countries.

Report from the APS Office of International Affairs:

Amy Flatten reported that this past year has brought exciting opportunities for the Society to expand its partnerships and develop new collaboration. she then gave a summary of the international initiatives carried out by her office:

- In 2012, a delegation of APS leaders traveled to China for visits with universities, researchers, and institutes throughout China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. The Chinese Physical Society's (CPS) Annual Meeting in Guangzhou served as a cornerstone of the trip, with the APS Vice-President speaking at the first-ever CPS-APS joint scientific

session. The goal is to have a similar set of meetings and programs in Latin America and India.

- Indo - U.S. Science & Technology Foundation (IUSSTF): Continue with the graduate student and professor exchanges between India and the United States.
- Brazil-U.S. Exchange Program - APS and the Sociedade Brasileira de Física co-sponsor the exchange of physics graduate student and professors between the United States and Brazil.
- In partnership with the UK Institute of Physics (IoP) and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the Society continues to co-sponsor workshops designed for physicists and engineers from developing countries who are interested in learning entrepreneurial skills. Such an educational program is missing in many of the developing countries.
- The APS renewed its partnership with the European Physical Society (EPS), the UK Institute of Physics (IoP), and the German Physical Society (DPG) toward the SESAME Travel Award Program that supports training opportunities for scientists in the Middle East.
- Marshak and Beller Lectureships - continue to bring international physicists to speak at APS meetings through both Lectureships, which support distinguished physicists from the developed and developing countries respectively.
- 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.
- 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.

Chudnovsky asked what is the purpose of partnering with the Chinese. Flatten responded that we promote these partnerships to benefit the whole of the physics community.

With respect to the ITGAP, Flatten reported that the Division of Fluid Dynamics has just joined the ITGAP group of supporters. The only Division that has not contributed yet is the Division of Chemical Physics. She also reported that her office has put together a letter to Kate Kirby to forward to APS president Michael Turner to thank the Board for

the matching support they gave for the ITGAP. Because of its impact and because the number of proposals has increased, the hope is that he will consider contributing \$4,000 again for this year.

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

Fundraising Activities:

Ulloa reported that we are blocked from doing any fundraising activities of our own until the Development Task Force presents its report. We have to be vigilant of the timing of this report so that we can make our "wish list" known. Especially the case for the ITGAP and the Student Travel Program. Winick will mention this on the next APS Council meeting.

Student Travel Program:

Mirkin gave a brief summary of the history of this program. The APS Distinguished Student Seminar Series (DS3) was created last year 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 last year. Darve volunteered to continue this effort. She will contact Newman and find out how much money we received for this program. Mirkin will send her the final program announcement.

Wheatley Award:

In a discussion about this award it is apparent that we need to be more proactive in getting nominees and have it the award more known. Ulloa suggested that we give the award more structure. It is decided that the Chair of FIP will be in charge of the Wheatley Award.

Review of FIP Sessions at the 2013 March/April APS Meetings:

At the March meeting we will have the following invited sessions: "FIP Symposium on the science of climate", "Advances in condensed matter physics in Latin America" and "International physics programs and history of physics" (with FHP).

In addition, we are co-sponsoring a reception with the APS Office of International Affairs and the expatriate organizations (APKA, OPCA, ACIPA, and IrAp). At this reception we will

honor several APS 2012 FIP Fellows. AKPA and OCPA will present awards to their members.

At the April Meeting we will have the following sessions: "Science Diplomacy" (with FGSA), and "Grassroots Science".

Program for the 2014 March and April Meetings:

Ercan Alp will chair the Program Committee. We are allotted three sessions in March and two in April. If we co-sponsor sessions we can have more than the allotted.

The following topics were suggested and discussed:

- ◆ Big scale international projects that are underway - invite the directors or their representatives to talk about the project.
- ◆ Status of condensed matter in China.

We have until August to develop all the ideas.

Elections 2013:

Bill Barletta will chair the Nominating Committee. We need to elect a Vice Chair, 2 Members-at-Large, a Councillor. Kate Kirby needs to appoint one member to this Committee. Barletta will check with Newman (who chaired the committee last year) to confirm who are the other members. 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

Sergio Ulloa 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 Ulloa and the committee with instructions when all the nominations are in.

Other Business :

Christine Darve reported on the African School of Fundamental Physics and its Applications (ASP). The ASP is a non-profit organization aiming to foster sciences in Africa. The school is held every second year in a different sub-Saharan country. They select students from different universities among sub-Saharan countries. The students selection is completed by the International Organizing Committee, e.g. of criteria: at least 10 % of the students are women, and 10 % from the host country. They are gathering

funding to support the travel and bursaries of ~ 70 African students. The ~24 lecturers are typically supported by their own institutes.

The 3.5 weeks of classes are divided in topics as varied as theoretical and experimental subatomic Physics, accelerator and applications, and information technology and the Grid.

Darve stated that they are preparing the third edition in Senegal, Dakar in the summer of 2014. Their estimated budget is on the order of 172 kEuro. More than 20 world-wide institutes have answered positively to our pledge to support the first 2 editions (incl. ICTP, CERN, INFN).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Noemi Mirkin