



**NEW YORK STATE SECTION
AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY**

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
117th Semi-annual Symposium
158th Meeting of NYSS/APS x
November 10, 2017
Union College, Schenectady, NY

Time: 9:am am

Members Present: vice-chair: Secretary/Treasurer: Gianfranco Vidali (17); Executive Committee: Harold Hastings (19); Carl Ventrice (21); Kenneth Podolak (19); Samuel Amanuel (19), Eric Cotts (21), Jenny Magnes (19), Michael Rogers (19), Abram Flak(21), Joel Giedt(21), Zachary Robinson (21)

Members Absent: Erica Simoson (19) - chair, Rajesh Vaddi(20), Donell Hoffman(21), Shashi Kinbur(19)

In absence of the Chair Erica Simoson, Ken Podolak (vice-chair) is presiding.

1. Approval of minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting at the 2017 Spring Symposium:

The minutes were approved as amended.

2. Report of the Local Committee –Samuel Amanuel (Union College):

- a. Preliminary numbers for this meeting: about 261 registered; 171 students, 31 APS members, 60 ASNY; about 190 students. The meeting is held in conjunction with ASNY(Astronomical Society of New York)
- b. 36 posters; ASNI posters: 20
- c. 39 ASNY pay no registration, but ASNY is going to give NYSS \$2,000 to run the joint meeting; Sam said that the College might give \$2,000 to NYSS for defraying expenses but it is not confirmed
- d. There was a discussion whether students not presenting posters should pay go to the banquet for free – the current policy is that students need to present posters in order to have their banquet free. The general consensus is to keep the current policy so to encourage students to present posters.
- e. **Posters – see Appendix A**
 - i. Reminder of the policy: (PASSED October 15, 2004 with amount revised at this meeting) the judging committee may award prizes (up to \$1,000) for posters in categories at the discretion of the judges. Gianfranco proposed to increase poster awards up to \$2,000 at the discretion of judges and for this time only. Harold seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
 - ii. Given the large number of posters, two poster judging committees were formed: Harold, Jenny, Carl, Zak plus two local members.
 - iii. Results of posters judging – **See Appendix A**

c. Student support – see Appendix B

- (i) Requests for students travel awards were discussed. It was agreed to approve requests by Grove City, Oneonta and Binghamton
- (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 Vidali

At the end of 2016, according to the financial statement from APS shows we have \$ 57,423.09. At the same time last year we had \$ 54,886.25. Dues from APS amount to \$11,244 vs, last year's \$10,552. Currently there are 2811 NYSS members vs. 2638 a year.. We are the state section with the largest number of members!

	2016 (full year)	2015 (full year)	2014 (full year)
Total assets	\$ 57,423.09	\$54,886.25	\$52,422.60
Revenue	\$16,005.18	\$13,049.80	\$16,480.47
Expenses	\$13,468.34	\$10,661.15	\$10,651.78

Data from APS financial statements.

Example of costs incurred in Symposia (figures are not final); note that I split the total cost of each Symposium in the net balance to run the Symposium (registration plus grant income minus expenses for catering and use of facilities) and outlays in form of grants, awards, and travel reimbursements.

SUNY-Oswego:

- Symposium net balance: -\$934.87;
- Other expenses: \$2,743.88 (student travel: \$812.27; poster awards: \$400; Outreach: \$1531.61);
- Total cost: \$3,678.75

SUNY-Plattsburgh:

- Symposium net balance: -\$1,980.54
- Other expenses: \$1,217.14 (student travel: \$426.39; speaker travel: \$290.75; poster awards: \$500.00)
- Total cost: \$3,197.68

SUNY – Fredonia:

- Symposium net balance: \$473.43
- Other expenses: \$ 5,143.78 (outreach grant: \$2,143.00; student travel: \$850.94; speakers' travel: \$1,749.84; poster awards: \$400.00)
- Total cost: \$4,670.35

Vassar College

- Symposium net balance: -\$2,272.70

- Other expenses: \$3,900.78 (student travel: \$147.38; outreach proposal: \$2,200; speakers' travel: \$928.40; poster awards: \$625.00)
- Total cost: 6,173.48

Sarah Lawrence

- Symposium net balance: -\$1,102.19.29
- Other expenses: students travel \$381.24; poster awards: \$900.00; speakers' travel: 1162.10
- Total cost: \$3545.53

RPI

- Symposium net balance: -\$1809.78
- Other expenses: (student travel: \$732.27; speakers' travel: \$1,016.81; poster awards: \$950.00)
- Total cost: \$4508.86

Buffalo

- Symposium net balance: -\$5468.83
- Other expenses: student travel: \$1068.54; poster awards: \$1,500; Outreach grant award for travel: \$ 669.11.
- Total cost: \$8706.48

Average cost per Symposium: \$4,925.87

	Symposium	Posters	Speakers	Outreach	Student Travel	Total
Current Max Allowable Expenses	\$1,000 (suggested)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	7,500
Proposed	\$1,250	\$700	\$800	\$2,000	\$1,250	\$6,000

As a reminder, most of the income comes from membership (about \$10,000/year), while most of the expenses are for running the Symposia, for students and speakers travel support, poster awards and outreach grants. Over the years we set mixable allowable expenses per Symposium, see Table below. Obviously, spending the maximum in each category per Symposium (\$7,500) is not sustainable; per year we would spend \$15,000 while we would get \$10,000 from income. A new allocation of budget items is proposed. We will run a slight deficit that is sustainable for the near future, given our reserves. While the distribution of expenses among categories can be changed from Symposium to Symposium, we should stick to a max of \$6,000 in expenses per Symposium.

Ideally, we would like to have a net about twice the operating budget. Since our net keeps increasing, at the 2013 Fall meeting I proposed the following steps to increase outlays:

- Increase the number and size of the Outreach grants;
- Increase the financial support for students to attend Symposia;
- Allocate a budget for partial travel reimbursements for speakers at Symposia

To summarize:

1. While the cost to run the Symposia goes up even if attendance is down, we still face with the fact that we take in more than we give out. The main problem is the fact that our model of achieving a slightly negative balance per year is predicated in awarding Outreach grants. Unfortunately, there have been very few applications for such grants in the last years.

Furthermore, one should reflect on the fact that our Symposia are serving fewer and fewer people. Preliminary figures on cost of Symposium per student attendee

Number of students per Symposium cost/student

RPI	44	\$ 64
Sarah Lawrence	51	\$ 44
Vassar	16	\$200
SUNY Fredonia	46	\$ 28
SUNY Plattsburgh	35	
SUNY Oswego	27	\$ 35

The cost per student is obtained by using the cost per Symposium, excluding: students' travel, outreach grants, poster awards; but including speakers' travel.

4. Future Symposia

- a. University of Binghamton – April 13-14; topic: Quantum Materials
- b. SUNY Brockport ? – proposed by Zak
- c. Brookhaven National Lab? – proposed by Joel
- d. IBM ? – proposed by Abram

5. Outreach Grants– Harold Hastings

Outreach grants: fund the two proposals: Long Island Science Center (\$2,000) and from St. John's University (\$1,600). An additional \$200 was added for awardees to travel to a NYSS Symposium to present the outcomes of their outreach work. It was unanimously approved. There was a discussion centered on the necessity of making results of outreach work easily available through one of our NYSS pages

6. Newsletter

The newsletter is published on-line once a year. There is a mid-January deadline to get material to Eric. It was decided to increase the visibility of the NYSS Symposia by using social media. Zak is looking into setting up a Facebook page

7. Membership Survey

Erica distributed a draft of a membership survey that will go to NYSS-APS members. Send comments to Erica

The meeting was adjourned (11:40 am).

Appendix A - Spring 2017 Student Poster Awards

Graduate Student Awards:

1st Place (\$300):

"First-Principles Study of Phonon Anharmonicity in Atomically-Thin Black Phosphorus", Andrew Cupo, Damien Tristant, and Vincent Meunier, RP

2nd Place (\$200):

"EXONEST: The Exoplanetary Explorer", Jennifer Carter, Bertrand Carado, and Kevin Knuth, SUNY Albany

Undergraduate Student Awards:

1st Place (\$300):

"Fabrication of Reproducible Micro-Bridge Structures", Zachary Johnson, Connor Murphy, and Michael Thompson, Grove City College

2nd Place (\$200):

"Development of an Efficient Model Extension Method with Application to Pancreatic Cancer Microenvironment", Mit Patel (Vassar College), Adam Butchy, Khaled Sayed, and Natasa Miskov-Zivanov (Univ. of Pittsburgh)

3rd Place (\$100 each):

"Heightened Figure of Merit for Lithium-Doped Copper(I) Iodide Thin Films", Alexander Brodie, Gabrielle DeSantis, Jennifer Gunning, Nancy Huang, Jake Kaufman, Mairead McCarran, Jordan Shaked, and Marissa R. Civic, Binghamton University

"Temporal Diffraction Signal Analysis of *C. elegans* Locomotion", Cheris Congo, Miranda Hulse-Vincent, and Jenny Magnes, Vassar College

"Local Stellar Halo Substructure Observed with Baia and LAMOST", Thomas Donlon, Cuihua Du, Heiki Jo

Appendix B – Travel Support to Students to Attend the Fall 2017 Symposium at Union College

A total of \$1095.10 was requested for the travel of 26 students.

Appendix C –Report of Fall 2017 Symposium at University of Buffalo

Financial Report: Spring 2016 NYSSAPS Meeting

Total Registrants: 120

INCOME:

On-site Registration / Banquet:

Checks 0

Cash 0

Registration/Banquet

collected by APS (off-site) 1,530

UB Donation 6,853

Income Total 8,383

EXPENSES:

Catering / Rentals 9,374.75

Invited Speakers Support 4,327.08

Parking 0

Name Badges 50

Program Printing 100

Folders and Labels 0 (included in printing)

Audiovisuals 0 (included in rental)

Others

Expenses Total: 13,851.83

Net cost to NYSSAPS 5,468.83

Submitted by Hao Zeng (University of Buffalo)