



**NEW YORK STATE SECTION
AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY**

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
116th Semi-annual Symposium
157th Meeting of NYSS/APS
April 20, 2017
The University - Buffalo, NY

Time: 8:50 am

Members Present: Chair: Bruce White (17); vice-chair: Erica Simoson (17); Secretary/Treasurer: Gianfranco Vidali (17); Executive Committee: Harold Hastings (19); Carl Ventrice (17); Sunil Labroo (17); Kenneth Podolak (17); Samuel Amanuel (19)
New elected member: Eric Cotts (21)

Members Absent: John Noe (17); Shashi Kanbur (19); Jenny Magnes (19);

1. Approval of minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting at the 2015 Spring and 2015 Fall Symposia:

The minutes were approved as amended.

2. Report of the Local Committee –Hao Zeng (University Buffalo):

- a. Preliminary numbers for this meeting: 105 attendees before morning registration, 80 banquet tickets. There are about 18 posters.
- b. **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.
 - (ii) A poster judging committee was formed:
Ken, Sunil, Eric, Sam, Carl, and two local judges to be designated.
 - (iii) Results of posters judging – **See Appendix A**
- c. **Student support – see Appendix B**
 - (i) There was a request of \$870 for travel support from students (University of Binghamton); a request for banquet support from Skidmore students was denied because inconsistent with NYSS's policy.
 - (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 for 2017 amount to \$11,244 vs, last year's \$10,552. Currently there are 2811 NYSS members vs. 2638 a year ago. The percentage of NYSS members with respect to the total APS membership increased to 5.20%. **We are the state section with the largest number of members!**

The investment income is \$ 1,588 for 2016.

	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**

Average cost per Symposium: \$4,295.74

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; in a given 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.

	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

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:

- a. Increase the number and size of the Outreach 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 to \$2,500.
- 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.

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.
2. 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 \$ 55
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. Results of the 2017 Elections

The results of the election were communicated by Sunil Labroo. Gianfranco Vidali was elected Secretary/Treasurer. The following individuals were elected to a 4-year term as members-at-large: Carl Ventrice - SUNY Polytechnic, Joel Giedt – RPI, Abram Falk - IBM Yorktown, Brandon Hoffman – Houghton College, Eric Cotts – Binghamton Univ., Zachary Robinson – Brockport. The chair elect, Erica Simison becomes the chair. Kenneth Podolak becomes the vice-chair.

Currently, there are 11 members-at-large. Bruce proposed to take the 7th finisher in the election and make him a member for two years, so that in the next election cycle, there will be 6 members up for election, or half of the number of members at large. A vote was conducted by email prior to the Executive Committee meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the proposal. Therefore, Rajesh Vaddi – Corning will serve for two years as a member-at-large.

5. Future Symposia

- a. Union College – (Fall 2017) – Topic: Gravitational Waves
- b. University of Binghamton – (Spring 2018)
- c. ?

6. Outreach Grants– Harold Hastings

One proposal was submitted: Dr. Michael Walters, Assistant Professor of Physics, SUNY Plattsburgh, entitled “Microclimates and Toxic/Flammable Chemical Drift,” requesting \$1,713.42.

There was a discussion on whether it was appropriate to fund this proposal since the proposal centered on gathering data but not on disseminating them. It was decided to fund it with the provision that the proposer would communicate the data to the community. There were seven votes in favor and one abstaining it.

Harold Hastings had proposed earlier by email that up to \$1,000 would be allocated for travel for Veeshan Narinesingh (CUNY graduate student) and others to report on his 2015 Outreach Grant, “Bringing Physics to Harlem’s Underprivileged Youth.” The Secretary/Treasurer approved it.

In an effort to encourage submission of applications to the Outreach Grant programs, Erica will make the list of funded grants available on the NYSS webpage.

7. Change of Leadership

Erica Simoson became Chair and Kenneth Podolak became Vice-Chair; Gianfranco Vidali is the Secretary/Treasurer

The meeting was adjourned (11:40 am).

Appendix A - Spring 2017 Student Poster Awards

Undergraduate Student Category:

Place	Name and poster number	Poster Title	Affiliation	Contact and Mailing Address	Amount
1 st	Maoj Awad #28	Effects of the Length of Bifunctional Molecular Linkers on the Lifetime of the Transferred Electron from Quantum Dots to Metal Oxides	University at Buffalo	3631 Meadowbrook Acres, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 maojawad@buffalo.edu	\$400
2 nd	Kenneth Sabalo #15	Creating Solar Cells from Chemically Grown Nanostructures	St. John’s University	80-11 168 th Street, Queens, NY 11432 kenneth.sabalo13@stjohns.edu 703-505-7852	\$200

3 rd	Yifan "Jimmy" Tang #20	Time Delay Orbiting Around Non-Spinning Black Holes	Ithaca College	33 Hudson Pl, Apt #12 Ithaca, NY 14850 ytang@ithaca.edu 313-610-6636	\$100
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Graduate Student Category

Place	Name and poster number	Poster Title	Affiliation	Contact and Mailing Address	Amount
1 st	Peiyao Zhang #39	Dependence of the magneto-optical properties on laser excitation in ZnTe/ZnMnSe Quantum Dots	University at Buffalo	55 Raintree Is, Apt 4, Tonawanda, NY 14150 peiyaozh@buffalo.edu	\$400
2 nd	Peijian Wang # 6	Disentangling "Light" and "Dark" Interactions in Organic Semiconductor	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	1J Brandywine, Amherst, MA 01002 pjwangpku@gmail.com	\$200
3 rd	Dengxin Ji #37	Broadband absorption engineering of hyperbolic metafilm patterns	University at Buffalo	Electrical Engineering Department University at Buffalo 240 Davis Hall Buffalo, NY 14260 dengxinj@buffalo.edu	\$100
3 rd	Tiange Bi #5	Superconducting Phases of Phosphorus Hydride under Pressure: Stabilization via Mobile Molecular Hydrogen	University at Buffalo	6113 Nickel Way, Buffalo, NY, 14228 tiangebi@buffalo.edu	\$100

Appendix B – Travel Support to Students to Attend the Spring 2017 Symposium at University - Buffalo

A total of \$1068.54 was requested for the travel of 15 students. Furthermore, \$669.11 was awarded to bring three students from CUNY to present a poster of the activities sponsored by a 2015 Outreach Grant.

Appendix C –Report of Fall 2016 Symposium at RPI

Submitted by Vincent Meunier and Joan Perras

Financial Report: Fall 2016 NYSSAPS Meeting			
Total Registrants:			74
Students:			44
Non-students / HS Teachers / Retirees:			5

INCOME:				
On-site Registration / Banquet: Checks			\$ 285.00	
Cash			\$ 470.00	
Registration/Banquet collected by APS (off-site)			\$ 1,690.00	
RPI Donation			\$ 777.45	
Income Total			\$ 3,222.45	
EXPENSES:				
Catering / Rentals			\$ 4,748.15	
Invited Speakers Support			\$ 1,000.00	Travel
Parking			\$ -	
Name Badges			\$ 49.08	
Program Printing			\$ 35.00	
Folders and Labels			\$ -	
Audiovisuals			\$ 200.00	
Others			\$ -	
Expenses Total:			\$ 6,032.23	
Net cost to NYSSAPS			\$ 5,254.78	
APS to Pay RPI (excluding travel processed separately)			\$ 4,254.78	
Submitted by		Vincent Meunier and Joan Perras		
		12/5/16		

Note: RPI contribution is \$777.45. Cost for speakers' travel came to be \$1,016.81 instead of \$1,000.

The cost of the Symposium (including speakers' travel reimbursements) is: \$6,049.04-3,222.45=\$2,826.59