

FGSA Executive Meeting, July 15th 2014

In Attendance: Brock Russell, Alexis Knaub, Marilena Longobardi, Richard Ruiz, Laura Boon, Ian Stern.

Contact information highlighted in green at the end of each agenda item.

Agenda:

1. March and April Meetings update
2. Facebook page updates and additional person to work on Facebook page
3. AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Representative
4. Travel Grants update -- new online system?
5. Discussion: Non-execs
 - a. How are non-exec reps and liaisons selected?
 - b. What positions are available?
 - c. What is their representation on the exec committee?
 - d. How can we get more people involved
6. Regional Groups?
7. Other business

1) March and April Meeting

March Meeting: Focusing on Communicating Science to the public.

The meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas

Richard Ruiz knows Phil Plait of Bad Astronomer blog, and will contact Val.

Other suggestions: Remote call from CERN

Writers of Symmetry Magazine

April Meeting: International Communication (tentative)

The meeting will be held in Baltimore, Maryland

-Alexis: What is international communication (good question)

-The session will be made up of 3 talks

-Ian: Do we just want International Communication or something else?

-Richard: Maybe 1 talk on international communication and one on domestic communication.

-Alexis: Likes the idea of international communication but needs to be more defined for students

- Talking with scientists at CERN?

- International Postdoc positions

Contact Val Gray

3) AAAS Science & Human Rights Coalition, Student Rep

-The student must be a current graduate student, at the time they are serving on the coalition.

- Serves a 2 year term, next term starts Jan 2015.
- We need to define a way to 'elect' a representative, outside of the exec committee
- Richard will lead the effort to elect a representative. Marilena and Vikram will join the team (Richard will contact Vikram)

4) Travel Grants

- Alexis:
- Applications used to be e-mailed to the travel grant e-mail address, the process was not streamlined and all steps were manual and time consuming.
 - The online form created automatic replies and removed the chance that e-mails end up in spam folders.
 - It was also able to collect additional information such as where the student was going with the grant.

Alexis: - The online form went really well for its first round. There were no more questions than usual.

- 6 grants awarded, out of 35 applicants.

Travel grant committee: Alexis (Chair), Sara, Ian and Richard

Richard is joining for the next quarter.

2) Facebook page

Laura: We need a volunteer to moderate the page, add members, and post articles and advertisements.

Sara was volunteered, Brock is contacting her to get her ok.

5) Discussions:

Non-execs: How to get people involved?

- Send out E-mails asking for help
- Ask students we know

Alexis: We need clear responsibilities and benefits for the students, such as networking.

- There was some discussion about how to convince people to volunteer:

Advertise the line on the CV

Vs.

Explaining you get so much more out of it: networking opportunities, etc.

Ian: People get involved for two reasons:

- 1) Being involved gives them benefits.
- 2) The organization brings them benefit.

- Students don't know about the benefits FGSA provides, and we don't know what the students want us to provide.
- We need to find out what students want.

Richard: They want more funding.

Ian: We can provide ways to funding, how to write grants, where to find grants to apply for, etc.

Richard: Snowmass Young Physicists already ran a survey with these questions:

<http://snowmassyoung.hep.net/> (main page)

<http://arxiv.org/pdf/1307.8080v3.pdf> (results)

This would be a good place to start writing our survey.

In the past Richard has enjoyed grant, fellowship and CV writing workshops

We need to expand March Meeting pre-meeting events to grad students.

Ian, Richard and Alexis will work on creating this survey (Brock and Laura will provide emotional support until their thesis' are complete)

5b) Current positions that are filled by FGSA:

AAAS Science & Human Rights Coalition, Student Rep – 2 year position

Facebook moderator – 2 people, one must be on the exec committee

Liaison to CSWP – We nominate 2 people they pick one

Liaison to CCPD – We nominate 2 people they pick one

Travel Grant Committee Chair – Must be on the Exec committee

Webmaster – currently un-officially filled by Manolis

Newsletter Editor – Need one for Dec 2014

AAAS Student Rep and Newsletter Editor need to be chosen ASAP, an official vote will occur at the next FGSA meeting

Alexis: Non-elected Committee members will only attend meetings if invited (agreed by all present)

6) Regional Groups: initial ideas

FGSA should be more active locally or regionally

But how to do this needs to be fleshed out

Laura: Create a list of local e-mail addresses of graduate students, similar to 'Friends of APS'

Action Items:

- Nominate an APS representative on the AAAS Science & Human Rights Coalition – Committee lead by Richard
- Confirm Sara as Facebook Moderator – Brock
- Nominate Newsletter Editor

- Create/run Survey of FGSA Members to better serve them – Committee created.

Meeting adjourned 12:15 est (approx.)