Thursday, November 21, 2013

Attendance:
Alexis, Brock, Katie, Laura, Vikram, David, Crystal (APS), Eric, Maria, Kelly

Agenda:

I. Review of past events:
   a. CAM13 (Laura)

II. Updates from current projects and other committees:
   a. Election (Report sent in by Renee)
   b. Newsletter (Vikram)
      i. Need to nominate new newsletter editor
   c. Facebook (Kelly)
   d. Travel Award (Maria or Alexis)
   e. Advertising poster/magnets (Alexis)
   f. Updates form APS student representative to AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition (Vikram)
   g. Update from APS Counselor Meeting (Their meeting is happening after ours, so Eric will send out an e-mail update.)

III. Future Events:
   a. March and April Meeting (Brock)

Minutes:

I. Review of past events:
   a. CAM13 – Canadian American Mexican graduate student conference (Laura)

   1) Was in Canada this year. Will be in Mexico in 2 years.
   2) 16 students applied for travel grants, 13 were able to attend due to visa issues.
   3) We have some money leftover from this.
   4) Everything went really well. All the four speakers were great.

II. Updates from current projects and other committees:
   a. Election (Report sent in by Renee)

   1) We’ve been really struggling to get nominations this year.
      a. Why? Do we have a plan for the future?
      b. Response has been that people are unsure of
         i. the benefits to students who serve on the committee
         ii. the time commitment required
         iii. etc.
      c. Possibly the surveys about us and our positions might help out a bit in this arena. But, will be too late for this election.

   2) Surveys
a. Idea is to serve as an introduction to the executive committee members and our positions.
b. We have all answered the questions they just need to be posted.
c. All at once, or 1-by-1. Leaning towards all at once.
d. Contact Chelsea (content strategist). We can just send her a word file with all the information and explanation and she will format it nicely in a way that works for our purposes.
e. We think we want this on the webpage and have a link on facebook as well.

3) Currently we have 5 nominations for member-at-large, and one each for chair elect and treasurer.
   a. This is not enough to run an election according to the by-laws.
   b. We need 4 for member-at-large and 2 each for both chair and treasurer.
   c. Amending the by-laws is not simple at all according to Crystal.
   d. Instead much simpler to make a final push to get two more nominations before Monday the 24th of November. → contact Renee

4) Elections will run for 6 weeks through the holiday season.

b. Newsletter (Vikram)

1) Thanks all for their help the past 2 years he has been editor.
2) The December issue is currently in preparation. If anyone has any questions or contributions they would like to add, they should contact Vikram.
3) There has been a really good response recently.
4) Eric will write one for the December edition as there is still space.

i. Need to nominate a new editor

   1) Vikram will compose a 1-page document describing the process and important details as well as help to introduce the new editor to the APS publicity department staff who help compose the final PDF.
   2) Newsletters are in July and December, with special editions in March and April for the meetings.
   3) Marilena interested in the newsletter editor position.
      a. Practice with Vikram initially (particularly for the special editions), and perhaps an incoming member-at-large will also join in.
      b. Eric is interested in writing some articles.

c. Facebook (Kelly)

1) Continuing to accrue new members
2) Lots of posting
3) Not many likes, comments, or interaction though.
a. Perhaps ask questions to encourage discussion.
4) Talk to Chelsea to get some ideas.

d. Travel Award (Maria or Alexis)

1) Are we getting a lot of applicants?
   a. Hard to say, typically, as with everything, applications come in close to the
deadline.
2) FAQ on the website are really helpful and prevent unnecessary work
responding to emails.
3) Recipients are posted to the website and will be/are announced in the
newsletters.
4) 6 travel grants per quarter @ $500 each.
5) We are getting approximately 30 applicants per quarter, which is pretty
good.
6) Obviously there is an increase before the March and April meetings.
   a. Perhaps we weight the number awarded based on that fact.
   b. Good support for that proposal.
   c. Crystal mentioned they get many phonecalls inquiring about the
undergraduate awards that end in disappointment due to the
undergraduate limitation.

e. Advertising poster/magnets (Alexis)

1) Physics poetry word magnets are the giveaway.
2) We should all be getting giveaways, as should other members.
3) How many? – Alexis will look into this.
4) How are they distributed between members and non-members?
   a. 2 separate letters
      i. How to get involved in FGSA?
      ii. How to join FGSA?
5) Are the magnets going to both members and non-members? – Alexis will look
into this.

f. Updates form APS student representative to AAAS Science and Human Rights
Coalition (Vikram)

1) Vikram is the APS student representative for this subgroup of the AAAS
2) Addresses the relationship between science and human rights.
3) He has composed a 2-page plan of action for how he will represent the APS
student section in this AAAS coalition.
   a. It discusses how to educate physics students on this topic, including
both graduate students and postdocs.
   b. Step 1 is a survey
      i. 18 questions long
ii. sent to FGSA and FIP (Forum for International Physics)

iii. We should look into sending it to APS student members not just those members of FGSA.

   1. We can’t just send an email out to all student members. Trish said they are survey saturated.
   2. Instead why don’t we send out to all those people who signed up for webinars previously. They signed an agreement allowing APS to contact them so it should be fine.

iv. Survey ends in mid-February.

v. We should look into adding a link to the survey not only on our facebook page, but also that of APS general.

vi. Send to large physics departments.

   c. Step 2 is using the results of the survey to create focus webinars, talks and campus events addressing the issues.

      i. APS is very happy to help with these potential webinars.

   g. Update from APS Counselor Meeting (Their meeting is happening after ours, so Eric will send out an e-mail update.)

1) Eric will send an email update after their meeting Saturday the 23rd of November.

IV. Future Events:

   a. March and April Meeting (Brock)

1) March meeting

   a. Session on postdoctoral fellowships with some previous winners as well as some individuals employed on selection committees.
   b. Problem is that no one has confirmed attendance due to budget issues.
   c. We need to find substitutes in case the worse happens.
      i. We likely have one Fulbright sub.
      ii. Likely need to find others as well.
   d. Was originally the first session of the meeting
      i. Bad because lots of people arrive later
      ii. No publicity at the graduate student reception.
   e. Switched it to the only other available session...the last session
      i. Allows for publicity.
      ii. Not good either people leave before the end.
   f. Need to look at ancillary sessions/satellite meeting places and times.
      i. Speak to Vinaya to put FGSA sessions on the list
      ii. Look into meeting after the student reception on Tuesday but before the last days Fri and Sat. (Wed. or Thursday?)
      iii. If submit this request before the deadline will likely get the time requested.
2) April meeting
   a. Session: Non-traditional careers in Physics
      i. Perhaps speak to Megan Anzelc to be a part?
         1. Wrote all the interviews about non-traditional careers
            a. How to self advocate
            b. How to find out about non-traditional
      ii. Small liberal arts school person (Brock)
         1. Guy at Gettysburg College still interested
            a. Teaching for a few years
            b. Fairly young.
      iii. Someone from National Lab (Laura) – waiting to hear back.
   b. Possible lunch with Neil deGrasse Tyson
      i. Expensive, ~$50/person according to Jodi
      ii. How many people? 50 for us, Jodi match for 100
      iii. Cap the number of people.
      iv. Day? He’s giving the planetary address, likely that day April 7th
      v. Yes, we want.
   c. Lunch with undergrads every year.
      i. Panel of grads answer questions, typically 5 or 6
      ii. Very informal
      iii. Sunday ~1.5 hrs
      iv. Talking about graduate school.