

FUN Business Meeting
Monday, November 5, 2007
San Diego, CA

In attendance: Mary Harrington, Eric Wiertelak, Gary Dunbar, Michael Kerchner, Margaret Gittis, Alan Gittis, Julio Ramirez, Mary Lou Caspers, Barbara Lom, Karen Parfitt, Gayle Brosnan-Watters, Debbie Colburn, Andy Mickley, Bruce Johnson, Chris Korey, Corey Cleland, Shelly Dickinson, Jennifer Yates, Jeff Wilson, Elaine Reynolds, Leslie Sargent Jones, Dave Rector, Jan Thornton, Karl Johnson, Alexia Pollack, Ron Bayline, Seth Ramus, Bill Grisham, Amy Jo Stavnezer, Ruth Grahn, Kristina Mead, Steve George

Meeting called to order: 7:03 am

Bruce Johnson was introduced as the Incoming President.

Election Results – Bruce Johnson

This year, 108 ballots were received. This represents approximately 33% of the electorate. We had a large slate of candidates for the Councilor positions. Thanks to all the candidates who were willing to run for office and thanks to all who voted. The results of the election were:

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| President-Elect (2007-2008): | Chris Korey |
| Secretary (2007-2009): | Alexia Pollack |
| Councilors (2007-2009): | Kristina Mead, Seth Ramus, Jennifer Yates |

Congratulations to all!

Travel Awards – Bruce Johnson

A total of 45 applications were received and 20 were funded. Sixteen students received \$500 travel awards; 4 students received \$250 travel awards; 10 recipients were men and 10 were women; several minorities were represented; the recipients attend both small colleges and large RO1 universities.

Booth – Mary Harrington

We had a very good first day. Information regarding the FUN mission and Nu Rho Psi is being distributed at the booth. We need staffing help especially on Wednesday.

FUN Social – Mike Kerchner

We have 90 + posters. The Germany Travel Award will also be presented tonight. Please plan to attend.

Treasurer's Report – Gayle Brosnan-Watters

We currently have approximately \$37,000 on hand. Much of this is the endowment. The endowment is invested in a Money Market fund. New expenditures include the cost of the website and accountant services.

Web Committee – Debbie Colbern

- Debbie has noticed an increase in members paying dues online.
- About 800 people are subscribed to the FUN Fan Mail list.
- There are 378 eligible voters to date.

JUNE – Gary Dunbar

- JUNE has published its latest volume.
- The copyright sheet has been simplified. The author keeps the copyright and gives permission to publish the article in JUNE.
- The editors request \$5,000 for 2008.
- The editors continue to work to get JUNE listed in PubMed and to see if the Journal of Neuroscience would include a link to JUNE on its table of content page.
- A copy of JUNE and the current table of contents are at the booth.
- We should track the number of hits to the JUNE site.

- Barbara Lom was thanked for all her help. Thanks to all who support JUNE.

Education Committee – Eric Wiertelak

- The next FUN workshop will be in July, 2008 at Macalester College; Pomona College will host the next workshop.
- The Committee is finalizing details regarding a consultant service. An announcement will be issued shortly.
- Mike Kerchner will join the committee.

Public Policy – Julio Ramirez

- Thanks again to all who respond to emails sent from Research America regarding legislation affecting education and scientific research. If you have the opportunity, visit your congress people.
- The NIH budget is flat but an 8% increase for the NSF budget is proposed and would affect the physical sciences mainly.
- Julio attended one of several meetings with NSF officials to discuss the state of biological science education. A core curriculum for biological science was discussed as were positive and negative incentives for compliance. A “PubEd” search engine was proposed to disseminate teaching information to K-college teachers. An education component to the CAREER program was discussed. NSF officials may be more open to a teaching post-doctoral program such as the one that Alan Gittis proposed several years ago.

Nu Rho Psi - National Honor Society in Neuroscience – Andy Mickley

- The Society has been active for 1 year. Currently we have approximately 100 members and 10 charters have been issued. Recruiting in the western section has been slow.
- NRP has repaid the loan from FUN and is financially solvent.
- The transition plan to move to a final governing structure in 2 years will be evaluated next year.
- The first newsletter will be ready shortly.
- The problem of small schools which cannot sustain a chapter will be discussed at a luncheon this week. Please attend if you are available.

New Business and Announcements:

- The increase in expenditures was discussed. An increase in dues was proposed as a solution. Personal (regular member) dues were raised 3 years ago. Organizational dues have been static at \$50 for a long time. Therefore, it was proposed and seconded that Organizational dues be raised to \$100. The motion passed. In addition, we should contact regular members who are delinquent in paying their dues.
- A motion to change the name from “Sustaining” to “Contributing” members was proposed, seconded and passed.
- Julio will contact publishers at the meeting to obtain books to be given to students at tonight’s Social.
- Please thank organizational representatives for supporting FUN if you see them.
- The possibility of scheduling either the Executive Committee Meeting and/or the Business Meeting for Saturday morning was discussed. Objections were raised because of the difficulty of travel on Friday during the academic year. Another possibility proposed was to schedule the Business Meeting before the Social on Monday evening.
- It was suggested that the Committee Chairs post their reports on-line prior to the SfN meeting. Also, any items for New Business should be solicited and posted in advance. This could streamline both The Executive Committee and Business meetings.
- Mary Harrington was thanked for her work as President.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Lou Caspers, Secretary