

## **Minutes: Business Meeting, Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (FUN)**

**Nov 11, 2013, San Diego**

Submitted by FUN secretary Jan Thornton, Oberlin College.

Present: Todd Ahern, Adrienne Betz, MaryLou Caspers, Amanda Clinton, Shelly Dickinson, Gary Dunbar, Lisa Gabel, Jeff Grimm, Bill Grisham, Kurt Illig, David Jewett, Chris Korey, Dorothy Kozlowski, Monica Linden, Barbara Lom, Andy Mickley, Katherine Mickley-Steinmetz, Mary Morrison, Karen Parfitt, Julio Ramirez, Elaine Reynolds, Bob Rosenberg, Noah Sandstrom, Jeff Smith, Amy Jo Stavnezer, Jan Thornton, Charles Weaver, Jeff Wilson, Jennifer Yates.

**Welcome and President's report** Sandstrom noted that it has been a good year and that there has been a lot of activity at the FUN booth.

**Introductions.** Attendees introduced themselves.

**Minutes.** The 2012 Executive Committee Meeting minutes were approved.

**Officer/Committee Reports** (See agenda and related documents)

**Election Results.** See "FUN election, 2013 report". There were 14 nominees for 3 councilor positions, 3 for secretary, and 2 for president elect. 112 participated in the election. Smith introduced the incoming officers: Lisa Gabel, President-Elect; Amy Jo Stavnezer, Secretary; Katherine Mickley-Steinmetz, Dorothy Kozlowski, Charles Weaver, incoming Councilors (for 2 year terms) and Tracie Paine (Councilor for 1 year term). He thanked the outgoing officers: Lom, Rosenberg, Linden, Thornton, Reynolds.

**Travel Awards.** (see report) Smith gave information on the Travel Awards. There were 35 applicants for 21 awards this year. This is the largest number of awards ever given out. Sandstrom was thanked for his efforts in raising funds. There were 15 reviewers and each reviewed 10-12 proposals. Awards were \$750 each.

**Brain Awareness Week (BAW) awards** (Sandstrom). These are from SfN funds. There were 4 applicants and FUN chose the winner. Winner was Ashleigh Gonzales who developed 3D models for 2D phenomena in neuroscience to assist the visually impaired.

**Public Policy and Government Affairs (Ramirez).** R and D funding is in a drought. The president wants to re-establish 2012 levels. The house doesn't yet have an NIH budget. Next year for SfN in DC, the government affairs committee and the council on undergraduate research will send information about visiting government representatives. Members will be encouraged to take students with them.

**Journal of Undergraduate Neuroscience Education, JUNE** (Wiertelak). JUNE is good. There are wonderful articles on neuroscience pedagogy. JUNE is now listed in PubMed. The budget is

neutral with last year. Page charges have been instituted and \$550 has been raised to help defray the costs to put JUNE onto PubMed in a timely fashion. It was requested that FUN discuss the notion of changing the name to Journal of Neuroscience Education (JONE). JUNE may put out a special issue or insert a special subsection to gauge the interest for K-12 and graduate/post-graduate articles.

cNDP (Wiertelak) and PECC (Yates). cNDP has agreed to support the education committee proposal to have SfN co-sponsor a session at the FUN workshop in Ithaca. Probably \$5k will come. The session will be on best practices, innovations in neuroscience. PECC co-sponsored BAW. BrainFacts.org site is out of PECC. The winners of the video contest have been posted.

Education Committee (Wiertelak). Committee includes Bruce Johnson, Jean Hardwick, Julio Ramirez and Wiertelak. Planning for the 2014 workshop in Ithaca NY Aug 1-3 is well under way. Prices are \$495 for the workshop, \$650 with the pre-workshop (co-sponsored by ADI instruments). The preliminary call is on the FUN website.

BIOLOGY 101 Vision and Change Reynolds has been informally representing FUN at a conference on 'Vision and Change' (a report on introductory biology coursework that was co-sponsored by AAAS and SfN). She will link up with the education committee to continue the conversations.

Nu Rho Psi (Mickley). The state of NRP is great. There are now 37 chapters with over 1700 members. The council met yesterday to discuss funding challenges as the society grows. Mickley announced that Wiertelak is the newly elected president of the Nu Rho Psi council.

Newsletter (Clinton) Worked with Calin-Jageman and Stavnezer. First two issues went well. Submissions have fallen off. They are encouraging submissions e.g. articles that are smaller than those needed for JUNE, articles about other creative things faculty members are doing, etc. They hope to publish four issues per year. They are making it more visual and user friendly.

FUN equipment loan program (Smith). This continues to be an exciting and innovative program. The committee is currently in the process of reviewing applications. To grow the program it would be nice to get more equipment. Be sure to thank the contributing vendors: Kinder, San Diego Instruments, Nikon, Noldus, ADI instruments. Smith urged members to talk to vendors with whom they have a relationship and send him the contact information.

FUN social/posters (Reynolds). Thank those who contributed travel awards. There will be 163 posters on 120 boards: An extravaganza! Able to accommodate almost everyone, not all. Awards will be presented at the end of the Social. They are thinking of other ways to show appreciation to the sponsors of the travel awards.

Sandstrom thanked Nu Rho Psi for 4 awards and for partnering for a 5<sup>th</sup> award. The Grass Foundation contributed \$10k for an endowment that will support a third award.

FUN Booth at SfN (Illig). The new blue t shirt with a brain design has already sold out. There are still some white shirts with orange brains. The booth made \$5100 yesterday (last year it was \$2500). There are nice new banners. Reynolds organized some discussion sessions that were very popular (e.g. curriculum in neuroscience programs). It was recommended that FUN have a card with contact and other information about FUN. Some thought this might take away from steering people to the website. The third booth is an experiment between FUN and NRP so feedback will be solicited after the meeting.

Treasurer-Finance Committee (Jewett). See FUN treasurer's report.

FUN is in good financial shape. In 2012 FUN was about \$4k in the black. Predict it will be approximately the same this year. Web hosting is now in the FUN name. There is a need to streamline how treasurers are changed. They are still looking for the articles of incorporation.

Hubel Award (Jewett for Calin-Jageman). Hubel award will be a memorial fund for undergraduate student travel to SfN. Currently have \$1700 and are talking with the family to endow it.

Website update (Sandstrom for Calin-Jageman).

A Membership numbers are down. Prices have increased so the income stream has not been affected. Stavnezer has been doing some personal emails to encourage those who have lapsed.  
B. Will try to update website this summer. Plan to incorporate acknowledgements on the website for sponsors of the travel and equipment awards. A group will be organized to talk about how to restructure the website.

### **New Business**

Stavnezer published an article which has been put onto the FUN website as a news piece.

Mickley announced that NRP has a guide to graduate school in Neuroscience, on the NRP website.

It was suggested that FUN should join the Professional Development Workshops on a regular basis to talk about teaching at undergraduate institutions.

Dickinson said the grad school fair was packed yesterday and it is now a 2d program.

Sandstrom thanked all. Voted to adjourn.