

**Minutes: Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (FUN) Executive Committee Meeting  
Nov 12, 2011, Washington D.C.**

Submitted by Jan Thornton, FUN secretary, 12/01/11.

**Open Session**

**Welcome and Introductions.** Shelly Dickenson welcomed and introduced the incoming FUN president Elaine Reynolds

**Election Results.** Reynolds thanked the outgoing officers and recognized the incoming officers. Shelly becomes past president, Jen Yates becomes a village elder, Mary Morris, Jeff Smith and Jared Young are outgoing councilors.

Incoming officers include Noah Sandstrom, President Elect; David Jewett, Treasurer Elect; and Bob Rosenberg, Monica Linden, and Barbara Lom as councilors.

**Travel Awards.** Reynolds gave information on the Travel Awards. Thirty-eight applications were received (approximately the same as last year). There were 17 regular awards made and two from SfN. It was suggested that officers should go to the sponsors and thank them, give them FUN pins, ask if they would like to display anything at the FUN booth, and give them FUN cards to give out. Dickenson volunteered to do it.

**Committee Reports**

**Journal of Undergraduate Neuroscience Education, JUNE** (Grisham). See report. There were approximately 7000 hits from 111 nations. They are working on getting JUNE listed in PubMed. Regular publication dates of Mar 15 and Oct 15 have been set up. They requested \$60 more than budgeted which was approved. Changes to the bylaws were recommended, which were voted on in the closed session.

**Public Policy (Ramirez).** See report. Julio Ramirez gave a report on proposed national funding. He urged members to meet with congressional representatives both in DC and at home, with the goals of keeping congress informed about why our work is so important, noting that we are advocates not lobbyists. A partnership with the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) was formed to give advice on how to approach congressional representatives. If this program takes off CUR will provide a lobbyist to inform how to best approach congressional representatives.

**SOMAS-URM (Ramirez).** See report. Ramirez thanked FUN. The \$4500 enabled them to make a 5<sup>th</sup> award this year. He announced the awardees. He gave information on the number of papers, number of student co-authors, etc by past SOMAS awardees. He requested \$4000 for next year and noted that continued funding for SOMAS was folded into the Davidson's HHMI grant proposal.

Education Committee (Wiertelak).

2011 FUN Pomona Workshop. Eric Wiertelak said that Reynolds will receive a final summary on the FUN-sponsored workshops at Pomona. It was very successful. The pre-session labs had more applicants than spaces available. There were fewer attendees at the main workshop than anticipated. Paid attendees = 61, total attendees = 90. They had hoped for 130. Still the workshop will be revenue neutral. The JUNE issue featuring the workshop is in the works. The 2014 workshop will be in Ithaca. They will try to develop a mission statement, consider some external funding.

The Program and Department Consultation Service continues to build. Requests for consultants have increased by 50%. In the future we might want to include a mentoring service for postdocs/grad students. Ramirez said he has slides on how to get a job at undergraduate institutions that he will post on the website. It was suggested that more professional development materials should be put onto the website. It was suggested that we need a clear editorial policy about this issue.

Website update (Calin-Jageman). See report. Dues updates are good. Recommended student membership at nominal cost. Bayline volunteered to draft a cohesive statement for membership. Listserv: it might be good to automatically link all FUN members to the listserv. It is currently unclear how to subscribe. We need to find a Listserv provider. \$120/yr was allotted for a web provider. This should enable the website to help regional meetings (e.g. allow PayPal for application fees).

cNDP Report (Johnson). Wiertelak will replace Bruce Johnson. cNDP has travel awards: students should not receive an award from FUN and cNDP. FUN needs to send its award list to cNDP. It will be put into the FUN application that a student cannot receive both. cNDP gave its Educator of the Year award to Ramirez. 250 people were at the Navigating the SfN session: FUN will continue to sponsor this with cNDP in the future.

FUN equipment loan program (Smith). This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, there were 7 applicants for approx 14 pieces of equipment, and 4 awards. Smith will serve as coordinator again next year. He would like to get more equipment e.g. microscopes. He urged those with a good relationship with a vendor to talk to them about the program and refer them to Jeff Smith. We might want to consider a FUN application for Nikon internal equipment loan.

Nu Rho Psi (Mickley). NRP now has a national board and tax exempt status. It is becoming self-governing. What should be the relationship between NRP and FUN? A liaison from NRP to FUN was suggested and Mickley will look to see if a bylaw change is needed. NRP hopes to continue to have travel awards and small grants in the future.

FUN social/posters (Yates). There will be 160 posters on 130 boards. Had to turn some away. Will be giving travel and other awards. Should do a head count each year. Will try to get 1h more for the social.

Brain Awareness Week Committee (Dickenson). A travel award was given. Money came from SfN.

FUN-SfN Booth (Jewett/Bayline). We have a triple-3 tables worth of space. Winner of the t-shirt design contest was announced: Joe Schrader. Postcards: Jen's brother will provide the FUN logo in formats that can be easily used.

Treasurer-Finance Committee (Bayline). See FUN treasurer's report handout. It was recommended that approximately half of the liquid assets be moved into the endowment fund, to get more return on the funds. This would leave about \$15k fluid. It was suggested that endowed travel awards could be set up. If this is done, it was suggested that \$20k should be asked for, assuming a 5% return.

### **Closed Session**

Bylaws Update related to JUNE. See Bylaws handout. Purpose is to open up the board composition and have the bylaws reflect practice. Motion passed.

### Budgets.

Additional funds were agreed to for the website.

The JUNE budget was passed.

The SOMAS request for \$4000 was passed.

It was proposed that \$15,000 or ½ of the minimum balance of liquid assets during the current year (whichever is lower) be moved to the endowment fund. The motion passed.

FUN Future. A task force/ vision committee was approved. It will include the current FUN president, the past president, the president-elect, and others as determined by those individuals. It will gather information and opinions from members about FUN and its mission. The committee will return next year to the Executive Committee with recommendations on how FUN should be changed and how those changes could be implemented.