

IoP HE Group AGM 2021 - Minutes

Virtual Meeting

Present: Nic Labrosse, Helen Heath, Sally Jordan, Grainne Walshe, Emily Brunsdon, Gareth Jones, Helen Vaughan, Meirin Evans, Stuart Christie, Mark Jones, Stephen McVitie, Alison Voice, Alex Crombie, Jessie Durk, Andrea Jimenez Dalmaroni

1) Welcome & apologies

NL welcomed everyone to the meeting

Apologies were received from Tom Stallard, Angela Dyson, David Sands

2) Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes were approved

3) Chair's Report (Nic Labrosse)

Since the last AGM just before the last VICE/PHEC we have had meetings on "Developments in Physics teaching and Learning in Higher Education in the last 100 years" (November). This was a 2-day meeting held jointly with the History of Physics group. The world wars were considered as an example of global disruption. "Lessons learned in Lockdown" jointly with the computational Physics group (April) involved about 40 people.

A newsletter was published in June. There is funding for new prizes. We have been involved in a series of meetings organised by SEPnet and WRIPA on the future of physics teaching.

We had a meeting on assessment earlier today

We are planning for more meetings to come. These include STEM by the Lake which hopefully will take place in 2022. NL outlined some future events that we are planning including "Physics in the spotlight" in November 2021 – related to the green economy. The HE group is planning a session on how to train our graduates to contribute to solving the problems posed by the climate crisis. "What is a competent physicist?" is planned for early 2022.

A meeting is planned of the PhD supervisors' network to discuss needs of supervising PhDs in physics and the sharing of good practice. A review of the Learning and Teaching in Higher Education meetings, is planned to be held in Liverpool if possible. Once we are able to resume face to face committee meetings, we also hope to reinstate the community meetings associated with them. In particular we are hoping that we will soon have a committee meeting at the IoP building in Dublin which was planned before the pandemic.

The group is also working on increasing the visibility of the group in particular the opportunities for group members to take part in physics education research and develop their careers.

NL encouraged everyone to follow us on Twitter (@IOPHEG), to subscribe to the PER mailing list and to explore the website (address below).

Newsletter, we now have a £100 prize for the best newsletter contribution. Submissions of around 400 words with images are encouraged. Deadline for the next edition is October 2021. Emily Brunsdon coordinates the newsletter.

Everyone was encouraged to update their records on the IoP website to ensure we can understand the composition of our group membership.

4) Secretary's Report (Helen Heath)

Nominations have closed for committee positions Dr James Uhomobhi was unopposed as Chair and is elected.

The eligibility of the nominee for the role of secretary is being checked.

There are 14 nominations for the five ordinary member positions. Voting starts today (18th August) and finishes on September 8th. Group members are encouraged to check their inboxes (and spam) for the notification

Please look at the group resources <https://www.iop.org/physics-community/special-interest-groups/higher-education-group>, which includes our newsletters.

5) Treasurer's report (Helen Heath for Tom Stallard)

Very little was spent this year because we were not able to meet in person. The bid for the coming year was approved almost in full and there is funding for a wide ranging programme. Details of the award are appended at the end of these minutes.

6) Monitor and review diversity data (Nic Labrosse)

NL presented the current membership of the group. The group has about 1300 members of which 30% is female (16% overall in the IoP), which is stable compared to last year. Numbers are increasing (as with other groups) following a minor dip in 2018. Our ranking as decreased a little so the new committee might like to consider how to ensure that we maintain our ranking in comparisons with other groups.

We have a relatively young membership. We are able to identify the groups where we have shared membership, and this might be relevant for joint events. We noted that the percentage of undergraduates is rather large, and this might be because members don't update their records. We have members across the world.

7) New HEG resource on getting started in PER (Mark Jones)

Mark introduced a website developed to encourage physics practitioners to get started in Physics Education Research. <https://sites.google.com/view/physicseducationresearch/home>. He noted that other sites do exist but this is aimed specifically at those in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The site includes a quickstart guide, useful information about Journals and many links to resources.

The aim is to encourage people to get started in Physics Education Research. Mark noted that this had been a team effort.

NL said that it will be announced on Twitter and via Email to the membership

8) AOB

Prizes (Andrea Jimenez Dalmaroni)

IOP have accepted proposal for the two awards. The Lilian McDermott award for the most outstanding poster in Physics education research. This will be awarded on Friday and Lilian's daughter will announce this year's winner. A second award, the Tom Duke award is for work of very early career scientists (within 6 years of 1st degree award) in the area of Physics Education research. This will be opened in October and closed in November with the winners announced early in 2022.

NL thanked everyone for contributing and closed the meeting.

Group budget for 2021/22

£1800 Two F2F committee meetings per year, one in London, and one in another location.

£3000 for the "STEM Education Innovation by the Lake" 2021 meeting, a 5-day intensive training workshop by scientists for scientists

* (£375) Seminar room hire capacity 15 people (5 days)

* (£250) Staff travel expenses

* (£600) 3 Staff Accommodation (5 Nights)

* (£775) 3 Staff subsistence (5 days)

* (£1000) Reduction of fees for 10 IOP members without additional funding

£1000 for a "Getting started in Physics Education Research" one-day meeting.

£1000 for a "What is a competent physicist" one-day meeting

£1000 for the second in-person PhD supervisors network meeting

£1000 for a "Learning and Teaching in Higher Education review" one-day meeting

£500 x 2, for two half day community meetings that follow on from our committee meetings.

£350 to support the organisation of a satellite meeting (1/2 day) around the Physics Higher Education Conference and pay for a couple of guest speakers' expenses.

£1500 to support physics education researchers in attending the annual Physics Higher Education Conference (PHEC) or one other meeting organised by us. Set to £1500 as this was the maximum for a one and a half day event

£270 for a new biennial "Exceptional Physics PhD Supervisor of 2019-2020 Award"

£270 for a new annual "Higher Education Group Physics Education Research Award"

£100 for our annual "HEG Newsletter Article Prize"