

Brookhaven Women in Science (BWIS) General Meeting

January 17, 2020

Attendees: 22

- I. Call to order by: Amber Aponte at 12:08 pm
- II. Comments or questions regarding minutes from last meeting:
- III. Report on BWIS activities:



a) Director of Membership

- i. Membership Numbers:

- 1. During the Wine and Cheese event on 1/7/2020, we had 14 new sign-ups, one new lifetime member, six student applicants (including a few males), and six renewals.
- 2. Jean stated that for the Kimberly Jackson lecture, 27 people attended.
- 3. For the Silvia Centano lecture, 47 people attended.
- 4. For our Annual Wine and Cheese event, 54 people attended.

- ii. Treasurer's Report:

- 1. Requests for reimbursements should be submitted as early as possible; requests must include original receipts or they cannot be accepted.
- 2. When ordering food, please provide specific information, such as date and event title. We have several expenses that cannot be identified. This can be time-consuming for the Budget Officer and others who need to review and approve expenses.
- 3. All requests should be pre-approved if not a *recurring* event (e.g., Speaker Series).
- 4. As a good practice, copy the BWIS President and Budget Officer/s from now on so they are aware of all requests for BWIS funding.
- 5. All reimbursement requests must now be submitted by August 1st. Do not submit requests at the end of the fiscal year.
- 6. All TFCU expenses are on the Google Drive.
- 7. We have an active PayPal account and need to assess if we want to keep it.

- a. It was suggested we try to use Venmo over PayPal because there is no fee if a bank account is attached to one's Venmo. However, Venmo is not regulated.

b) Director of Programs

i. Speaker Series:

1. Our first talk of the year is on 1/23/2020: Edward Sierra – “Enrico Fermi: Voyage to the New World.”
2. There are no other speakers currently scheduled.
3. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand as a possible speaker (S. Pepper)
 - a. Susan P. is in talks with Sen. Gillibrand's office for a possible visit to BNL.
 - b. Her talk would not contain anything political and be mostly STEM related. Maybe March or November to align with Early Career Symposium.
 - c. Amber asked Susan to provide more info when known. BWIS would love to support and/or co-sponsor the event.

ii. Awards/Prizes

1. Scharff-Goldhaber Prize (Pleier/Stavitski):
 - a. The prize is now \$2,000 thanks to contributions from Fred Goldhaber (\$500) and B. Mueller (NPP) (\$500). BWIS has thanked both parties.
 - b. We are updating posters and flyers and will make announcements. (Amber & Marc-Andre)
 - c. Deadline for applications is April 1st. We will announce winner in June and have award ceremony in July.

iii. Outreach/Networking Events

1. Transition Network (TTN) Event, August 11th, 2020 (S. Pepper)
 - a. TTN will host a lecture and lunch event for women over 50. This is an organization of women over 50 who are continuing their career passions.
 - b. This could be a good opportunity for BWIS to network.
 - c. Susan Pepper has agreed to give a talk for the event.

- d. Amber asked Susan to provide more info when available so we can promote and support this event, maybe open to members.

2. Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Parenting Workshop

- a. BWIS is interested in hosting a workshop by CCE called “Bringing Up Boys” (two-hours); last year we hosted a similar workshop on parenting girls.
- b. Cost is \$250 and they also have package offers.
- c. Available late spring or fall, though we are leaning towards the spring.
- d. Firoza will schedule a date and let Amber know.

3. High School Career Day Day:

- a. Aleida is planning the next High School Career Day which will be held on April 27, 2020. Please contact Aleida in OEP to volunteer.
- b. Amber asked Aleida to provide updates and let us know what she needs.

c) Work-Life Balance Committee

- 1. Amber was told at the last Quarterly Meeting that this committee had not met because the cultural survey data was still coming in.
- 2. Amber will continue to request an update at the Quarterly Meeting on this committee. It was noted that Work-Life issues were cited in the Culture IQ Survey data.

IV. President’s Update

- a) Amber met with K. Amm—our leadership “Champion”. Kathleen is here to listen and support us as needed.
- b) Quarterly Meeting With Lab Leadership Update:
 - i. BWIS addressed some of the issues cited by the Culture IQ survey gender results.
 - ii. Daycare Facility: Lab operations board of DOE wants to create a change in funds to make this possible (for all Labs) but this is TBD. Since BNL is federal property we need permission to use DOE funds for the camp. Amber will keep tracking this.

- iii. BWIS brought up feedback that BNL was not present at external conferences/events. David M. directed us to go to him for community outreach needs. He suggested that BWIS assist by providing a list of events.
- c) FY20 Budget status, tracking expenses – see above.
- d) Cultural IQ Survey – Gender Results: Path Forward
 - i. Kayla shared additional survey data.
 - ii. Amber asked the group, What do we want to address and how? Let's think of creative and targeted ways we could address issues.
 - iii. Maybe we should have a separate meeting to discuss this. **Amber and Kayla will determine next steps.**

V. Ongoing Issues:

a) International Women's Day (V. Stojanoff)

- i. The Girl Power in STEM event will take place March 6th (workshop like last year at BNL) and 7th (WISE at SBU will organize this day and space is already booked).
- ii. Volunteers are needed. Contact Vivien or Shruti directly.
- iii. Professional workshop is planned for Friday as funding was promised.

b) APS Survey

- i. The APS (American Physical Association) conducted an on-site visit. The data has been given to NPP. **Status?**

c) Society for Women Engineers Spring Visit (G. Mattson)

- i. **Amber will solicit volunteers to organize and support this event.**

VI. New Business:

a) BWIS Video Update

- i. Lab Photographer Jessica R. observed that the BWIS video posted on our homepage needs an update. She would like to help us produce a new video.
- ii. We could feature personal stories of BWIS members and statistics for STEM fields.
- iii. We should also mention how supportive BNL has been.
- iv. **Amber will place a Photography Request and schedule a pre-planning meeting.**

- b) Suggestion (Vivian): Host informal brown-bag meetings to discuss relevant and current topics. For example, topics could include Work Life Balance, Emotional intelligence, or Harassment in the Workplace. **Level of interest? Who can organize this?**
- c) Proposed: Ada Lovelace Day (ALD) (Amber): Does BWIS want to organize its own ALD? Typically held in early October.
- d) Proposed: Lise Meitner Event (Amber)—Based on initial costs, this event cannot be sponsored or arranged by BWIS. Amber has forwarded this request to the Stakeholders Office.
- e) New Officer proposed (Amber): Archive Officer; more archivable materials received. We can vote on this in the next election.
- f) Big Bang, Feb. 7th—BWIS TABLE? (Amber) As of this discussion, ERG's were not going to participate but TBD.
- g) Girl Scouts Annual Event (Firoza): BWIS should partner with Girl Scouts to host an annual event. We think this is a great idea but need to look into it.

VII. Action Items: See items above in yellow.

VIII. Adjournment at 1:15 pm