



American Academy of Health Physics
 American Board of Health Physics
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Corner

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Highlights from the Open Business Meeting 29 June 1999

Philadelphia Convention Center

Report of the President

President Herman Cember discussed directions in which he felt the Academy should be moving. In particular, he stressed that we must become more involved in the political process and attempt to change some of the public's perceptions concerning radiation and risk. He also stated his opinion that in this era of downsizing there is pressure to consolidate certain job functions and responsibilities and that health physicists are often involved in areas of industrial hygiene and safety. The Academy should consider making recommendations and providing opportunities for education of health physicists in these closely allied areas.

President Cember informed the membership that the Executive Committee of the Academy had not approved a recommendation to allow carry-over of continuing education credits from one certification period to the next. He noted that the American Society of Safety Engineers has convened a task force to evaluate the topic of credentialing in the health and safety professions and that the AAHP is represented on that group. He called on Richard Vetter to discuss the matter of overlap of medical health physics credentialing authority by the AAHP and the American Board of Medical Physics (ABMP) and American Board of Radiology (ABR). Vetter noted that there are negotiations underway between the ABMP and ABR to attempt to resolve some of their disagreements. He informed members that those who have passed Part I of the ABHP examination are now eligible to take Parts 2 and 3 of the ABMP examination in Medical Health Physics. He also observed that a member certified by the ABHP and working in the medical physics area is eligible for membership in the American College of Medical Physics (similar to our Academy).

Report of the President-Elect

President-elect Charles Roessler explained that he has been following the activities of the Academic Program Directors, particularly regarding their actions in pursuit of establishing an accreditation program for academic programs in health physics. At present the group is considering use of the Accreditation Board for the Engineering and Technology process. He assured members that the Academy would be represented in the discussions.

Report of the Secretary

Secretary George Chabot reported the results of the recent election: President-elect Lee Booth, Secretary Liz Brackett, and Director Dale Denham.

Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer Tom Buhl presented a brief review of the budget, noting that the budget was generally in good shape. Both short- and long-term investment goals have been met. The short-term goal was to accrue a reserve amount equal to the annual budget, and the long-term goal was to accrue an amount equal to about 1.5 times the annual budget. A full audit was completed for FY97-98; no deficiencies were noted in the audit.

Report of the Chair of the ABHP

Chairwoman Nancy Kirner summarized activities of the Board. She noted that the Board had been updating its procedures manual and that the new version would be available for submission to the Council of Engineering and Scientific Boards (CESB) as part of the application process for accreditation by that organization. The Board has made the "Examination Preparation Guide" available on the Web site this year; this resulted in a cost savings of about \$7,000. The Board is reviewing the matter of degree requirements for examination candidates and is looking for input on this topic. Kirner reported that the 1999 examination went well; six hours were allowed for the Part II examination this year. George Vargo clarified that we are a member of the CESB and are applying for accreditation; it is possible that the ABHP may have to make some procedural changes in order to comply with requirements of the CESB.

Other Academy Business and Business from the Floor

Wesley Bolch informed the membership that DOE had cut back support for academic programs in health physics. The Planning Committee of Academic Program Directors was considering a grass-roots survey in an attempt to increase support for academic programs. He stressed that the future viability of the health physics profession depended on the success of academic programs and requested that members provide input concerning means of increasing support to such programs.

- George Chabot