

Saturday, September 15, 2018

SIAM/MPE Business Meeting Minutes

SIAG officers present: Hans Engler (Chair), Kathleen Kavanagh (Vice Chair), Eleanor Jenkins (Program Director), Pedro Gajardo (Secretary). Notes by PG.

The meeting opens with Hans Engler giving some SIAG information and announcements:

- New officers to be elected later this year. The nominees running for the four positions are communicated by Kathleen Kavanagh (Chair of the SIAG/MPE Nominating Committee):
 - Chair: Lea Jenkins and Douglas Nychka
 - Vice Chair: Arjen Doelman and Matthew Hoffman
 - Program Director: Georg Gottwald and Matthew Parno
 - Secretary: Olga Vasilieva and Beth Wingate
- SIAG electronic mail list, website and link to information and archives are communicated.
- The next ICIAM 2019, to be held in Valencia, is announced with all the corresponding deadlines for submission, registration and financial aid.
- It is announced a special SIAM News issue devoted to MPE.
- Activities with MPE “flavor” recently carried out:
 - MPE themed session at AAAS Annual Meeting, February 2018;
 - Discussion panel at International Congress of Mathematicians, August 2018;
 - Doctoral training programs;
 - Book series.

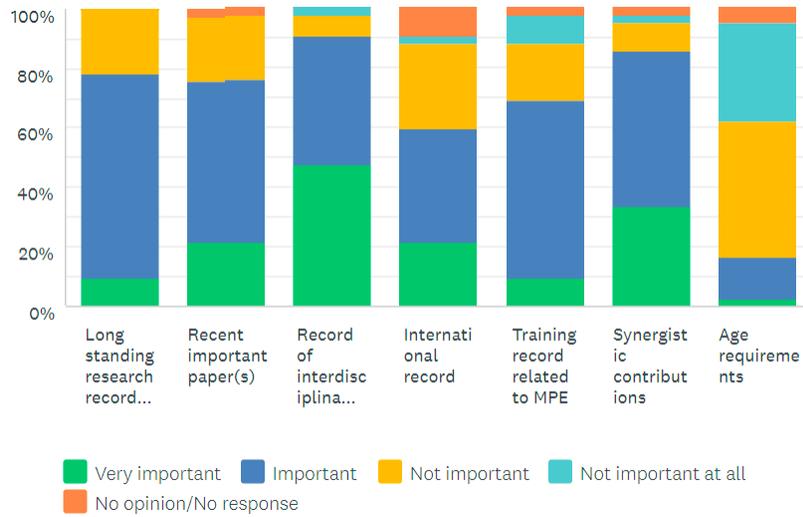
Hans Engler takes over with SIAG statistics:

- 335 members at the close of 2017 (126 members at the close of 2015); 220 of them students; 82% from academia; 73% from the US; 42% female and 58% male.
- MPE18: 179 attendees; 28 minisymposia; 30 contributed talks; 13 posters.

Hans Engler speaks about the new SIAG/MPE Prize: An anonymous donor has generously provided funds (bi-annual \$1,000 prize for ten years) to initiate a SIAM MPE Prize. A fundraising will be necessary to continue this beyond the first 10 years. The prize will consist also in an award and a plenary talk in MPE meetings. What should be the award criteria? One of the objective of the survey sent to all MPE members and MPE18 attendees was to receive opinions about this subject.

Some highlights of survey responses:

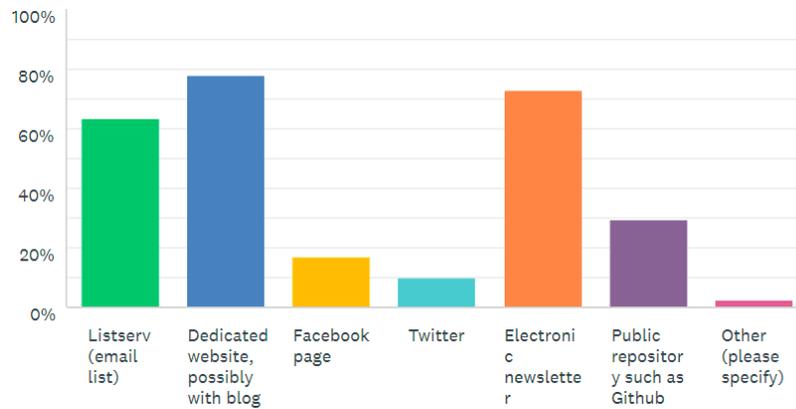
- **Importance of criteria for SIAG/MPE prize**



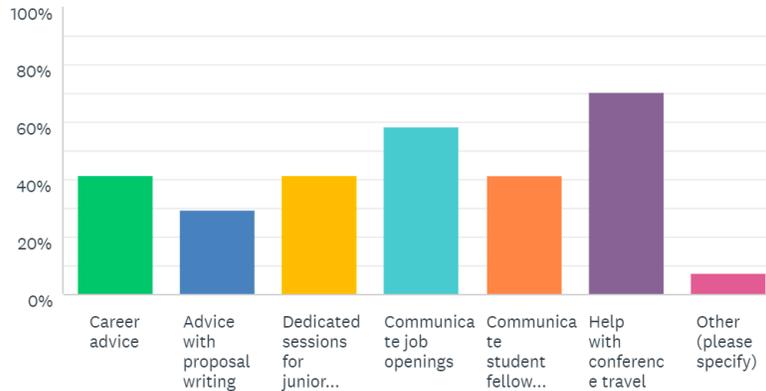
At the top: Interdisciplinary record; Synergistic contributions

From the comments: Impact on practice significance for the field diversity

- **Communication by listserv, website, or newsletter is preferred**



- **Help junior SIAG members with travel support and job news**



- **Other highlights:**

- Research areas (described in the MPE website): Physics (56%); Life (48%); Risk (36%).
- 56% are willing to help the SIAG.
- There are many other conferences of interest.
- 68% want biannual meetings.
- 75% want meetings with other SIAGs or societies.
- 73% of junior respondents are likely to stay in the SIAG

Hans Engler mentions plans and outlook for 2019/2020:

- Officers election in late 2018 (see nominees above).
- Minisymposia at other meetings: ICIAM, SIAG/GS, SIAG/DS.
- The 2020 meeting will probably be joint with another SIAG. The officers are currently identifying possible partners.

Finally, Hans Engler asks:

- Prepare for joint workshop and meetings in the odd years?
- Suggestions for improve the communications

and he invites to ask questions and give suggestions about: SIAG prize, growing and retaining membership, helping especially our junior members, the 2020 meeting, and opportunities for joint meetings with other groups.

The floor is open:

- Hans Kaper: How the survey results will be communicated? Hans Engler says that this will be discussed with the officers but probably the slides can be shared with the members.
- Gerard Olivar: What are the MPE doctoral training programs? Hans Engler talks about the MPE PhD program in UK (Imperial College London and University of Reading) and another program in Netherland.
- Concerning next MPE meetings:
 - What do you think to have the meeting in an earlier date (not in September)?

- Suzanne Lenhart: Do you have considered meetings with other SIAGs? Hans Engler answer yes, and talks about the survey responds concerning this question.
 - The possibility to do the conference in the SIAM annual meetings are mentioned.
 - Also to organize joint panels.
 - If there will be joint meetings perhaps we will need more days.
 - Hans Engler thinks that 2.5 days is OK for going to more different sessions.
 - Suzanne Lenhart says that to finish the conference in a half day is good for allowing people to leave early.
 - Hans Engler asks about the location:
 - Alice Nadeau says that the current hotel is too expensive, especially for students.
 - Suzanne Lenhart: may be SIAM can get a cheaper hotel.
 - Lea Jenkins: one should pay attention with cheap hotels nearby; safety of participants is always a concern.
 - Suzanne Lenhart: One solution could be that a list of cheap hotels nearby can be available.
 - Lea Jenkins: This information can be giving during the registration process.
 - Alice Nadeau: It will be great if in next meetings there will be rooms for collaboration.
 - About the conference date:
 - Kathleen Kavanagh proposes to consider April or October for possible dates.
 - Lea Jenkins: September is not good for many people, for instance, because it is the hurricane season.
 - Finally, Lea Jenkins asks to email to the officers for further comments about future meetings.
- Hans Kaper, Editor-in-Chief of SIAM News, invites to send articles related to MPE. He says: MPE subjects are ideal to SIAM News.
 - Fred Roberts: We have an MPE website. People willing to send histories please contact us.