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Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

Annual Report

OF THE PAF STUDENT COUNCIL

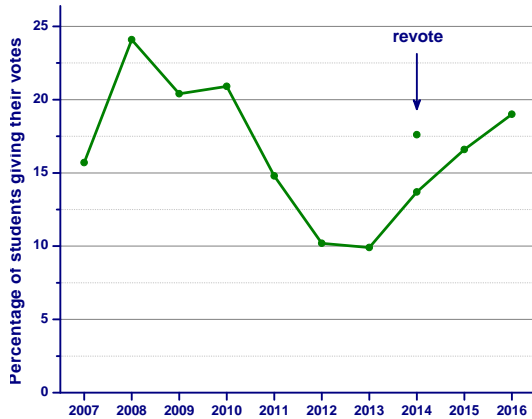
Faculty of Physics and Astronomy
Friedrich-Schiller University Jena

2016

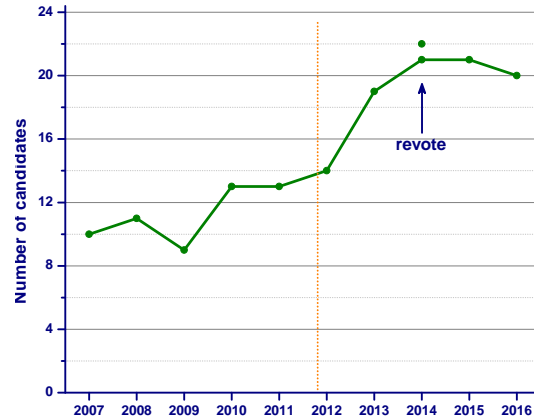
PAF **F**achschaft
Physikalisch-Astronomische Fakultät

1 The FSR and What We Do

The student council of the Faculty of Physics and Astronomy – referred to as FSR (for “Fachschafts-rat”) – is a group of 15 students, elected each year. Twenty students stood for election in 2016, 19,0% of the PAF student body gave their vote. As shown in the two graphs below, the relative number of voters increased further in comparison to the past three years. Besides, we noticed a constant number of candidates this year.



Percentage of students giving their votes in FSR election over the past ten years.



Number of candidates over the past ten years. In 2012 (orange dashed line) we set the number of members from nine to fifteen.

In the following we list the names of old and newly elected members of the PAF student council.

Members in 2015/16:

- Eric Abraham
- Eduard Betko
- Michael Förster (budget official)
- Max Fricke
- Annika Gambke
- Elisabeth Golbing
- John Heier (since February '16)
- Maximilian Keller
- Gloria Kirste
- Silvia Kunz (until February '16)
- Michel Pannier (chairman)
- Fabian Ritschel
- Samuel Ritzkowski (treasurer)
- Sebastian Ulbricht
- Katharina Wölfl
- Marie Zeidler

Members since October 2016:

- Eric Abraham
- Julia Baldauf
- Toni Bauer
- Lucas Eisenbach (budget official)
- Nico Fischer (chairman)
- Maximilian Keller
- Philipp Kellner
- Gloria Kirste
- Luise Lukas
- Esther Menz (treasurer)
- Fabian Ritschel
- Samuel Ritzkowski
- Franz Roeder
- Markus Walther
- Katharina Wölfl

We are facing a large spectrum of responsibilities. A small overview of tasks is shown below:



A huge part of our work consists of communication with institutions of the faculty (such as the Dean's office, the Office for Student Affairs or "ProQualität Lehre" – especially the regular talks with the Dean have shown to be very fruitful for both sides) and sending student representatives to other councils (such as the university student council *StuRa*, the *FSR-Kom*, the council of the faculty or the committee for lecture evaluation). During the lecture period we coordinate our work in weekly sessions, open to the public. Furthermore we offer two or more office hours per week to students looking for advices or searching for old exams.

Our main budget for all activities comes from the semester contribution of the students. At the moment the university student council gets 7€ per student and semester, from which 1.90 € go to the student councils of the faculties.

For further information (e.g. about our meeting and office hours or upcoming events), questions or help, please contact us:

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2 Events

Here we give a list of all events organized by us in 2016.

07./08.01. **Astronomy Night**

The Night of Astronomy was a small event on the roof of the physics faculty building where students could bring their own telescopes and watch the most beautiful stars; the Andromeda nebula was visible, too. There was also a guided tour through the institute of astrophysics the day before. About 20 people participated.

18.01. **Winter Party at Rosenkeller**

On the World Day of the Snowman we welcomed the new year together with the student councils Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Mathematics.

21.01. **Tournament Magic – The Gathering**

At least twice a year we make it possible for fans of the card game *Magic – The Gathering* to compete against each others in a tournament. The games took more than five hours and were joined by about thirty participants from different faculties.

26.01. **Skat Tournament**

Usually there is a Skat tournament every semester with great prizes to be won. This one took place at the *Quergasse No. 1*.

31.03./01.04. **Orientation Days for New Students**

We introduced the physics students starting in summer term to the study and examination regularities, gave guided tours through some institutes and the city as well as an introduction to *Friedolin*.

14.04. **Semester Start-up at Rosenkeller**

Another of our famous *PhyPsy*-parties with the FSR Psychology. All the colours of the visible spectrum provided the best LSD-style party mood. Special highlights were glow sticks and neon makeup, glowing in the blacklight.



30.04. **Volleyball Tournament**

For athletic students we began the semester with a Volleyball tournament at Sportforum in cooperation with the student councils Earth Sciences and Mathematics.

17./18.05. **Excursion to Hamburg**

This year's study trip took us to Hamburg. A first stop was the institute of applied semi-conductor physics in Braunschweig, then we went on to see the DESY particle accelerator in Hamburg. The evening was pleasantly concluded at a traditional restaurant. Before heading back to Jena, we visited *Airbus Finkenwerder* and *Philips Medical Systems* on the second day.



31.05. **Black & White Summer-Party at *Rosenkeller***

Together with the FSRs Anglistik/Amerikanistik and History we set up another party with little specials for everyone who was, according to the motto, dressed in black and/or white.

02.06. **Tournament *Magic – The Gathering***

The second tournament of the year took place at the IAAC with 22 people participating. We worked together with the FSR Chemistry, again.

07.06. **Board Game Evening**

Around 15 people comfortably spent an evening playing various board games at the Seminar rooms of our faculty, enjoying snacks and drinks.

16.06. **Students & Professors Meeting**



Once again, one of our semester highlights was the students-professors meeting, a get-together of students, professors and many other members of the faculty. Besides our traditional and especially delicious nitrogen-cooled ice, we provided bratwurst, vegetarian food and (lots of) beer. One could even

watch the European Cup soccer-game Germany vs. Poland on the big screen. Furthermore, we handed out the award for extraordinarily good teaching.



19.06. **Summer Tournament**

Our Football and Beach-Volleyball tournament took place in Jena West and was in cooperation with the FSRs Mathematics and Computer Sciences. Ten teams joined the competition, the best of which were awarded with various vouchers.

23.06. **Skat Tournament**

The second Skat tournament of the year took place at rooms of the faculty and again was in cooperation with Mathematics and Chemistry. There were 24 participants.

- 08.07. **Flunkyball Tournament**
The end of the summer semester was accompanied by a small Flunkyball tournament at Paradiespark. Naturally, the participation fee was one crate of beer per team.
- 19.-30.09. **Pre-Sessional Course in Mathematics**
In acknowledgement of our experiences in the last year, we kept holding on to an additional pre-course in Mathematics (in preparation for the actual pre-course to the lecture *Mathematische Methoden der Physik I*). The lectures were held by Michel Pannier and Sebastian Ulbricht, the seminars by Nico Fischer and Fabian Ritschel. The content extended from simple fractional arithmetic, linear systems of equations and differentiation to arithmetic/geometric series and mathematical induction. As it appears to be strikingly necessary, the course will take place every year.
- 04.-05.10. **Orientation Days for New Students**
Again, we guided our freshly enrolled students through city, university, faculty and the impenetrable jungle of *Friedolin*, study and examination regularities as well as actual research of the institutes. The evenings were topped off by BBQ and pub crawling.
- 10.-14.10. **LaTeX Tutorial**
This year we offered two separate LaTeX-tutorials: one for B.Sc. students and one especially for Master of Photonics. The courses were held by Mark Kremer and Negin Sahraei.
- 21.-23.10. **Ersti-Fahrt**
As every year, we invited our new students for a weekend trip (“Ersti-Fahrt”), this year for the second time to a nice location named *Sormitztal*, near the small town Leutenberg.
- 25.10. **Semester Start-Up at Café Wagner**
The beginning of the semester was celebrated at *Café Wagner* together with the student council Mathematics. There was a reduced entrance fee for first-semester students and one hundred shots for free. We counted 268 guests.
- 17.11. **Skat Tournament**
The third Skat tournament of the year was held with the FSRs Chemistry and Mathematics at the seminar rooms of Max-Wien-Platz 1 and was attended by 12 people.
- 22.11. **Tournament Magic – The Gathering**
The third MtG tournament was in cooperation with the FSR Chemistry again and attended by 18 people.

08.12. **Christmas Party with the FSR Psychology**

The “Rockin’ around Christmas” party took place at the *M-Pire Club*, featuring 80/90’s rock and pop in between atmospheric Christmas decoration. There were about 300 guests.

21.12. **Movie *Die Feuerzangenbowle***

Letting the year fade out, we showed the traditional German movie *Die Feuerzangenbowle* (with English subtitles, of course) and prepared the corresponding (identically-named) drink. About 50 people joined us, enjoying also Glühwein and biscuits.



Furthermore we supported the following external events:

- Tag der Physik (18.03.)
- Professorenacht feat. Jun. Prof. Pfeiffer (12.05.)
- Hochschulinfotag (21.05.)
- Premier of *Star Trek Beyond* at CineStar (20.07.)
- Students & Professors Meeting (07.12.)



3 Lecture Evaluation

Each semester the FSR organizes an evaluation of all lectures at the PAF (including several service courses of other faculties) in cooperation with the *Universitätsprojekt Lehrevaluation (ULe)*. The evaluation aims at the assessment of quality and professional level of the lectures as seen from the point of view of students and encourages the lecturers to take a critical review of their teaching. At the same time it provides an orientation for students, for instance when choosing physical elective courses.

On basis of the evaluation the FSR gave the **student body teaching award** in the winter semester 2015/16 to Dr. Silvana Fischer for her lecture “Fachdidaktik I”. In the summer semester the award was given to Prof. Malte Kaluza, whose lectures in “Klassische Experimentalphysik I” and “Plasma Physics” achieved very high ratings.



4 ZaPF and BuFaTa MatWerk

The **meeting of all physics student bodies** (referred to as ZaPF for “Zusammenkunft aller Physik-Fachschaften”) takes place every semester; this year the physics student bodies of Konstanz and Dresden organized the conferences in May and November. Of course we participated in both of them and joined work groups dealing with B.Sc. and Teaching degree programs of study, the *Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz*, ethics in science, communication to other student bodies, female quota and many other topics.

Furthermore, a delegation joined the **meeting of all materials science and engineering technology student bodies** (referred to as BuFaTa MatWerk for “Bundesfachschaftentagung der Fachbereiche Materialwissenschaft/Werkstofftechnologie”) taking place in Freiberg in May and Aachen in November. Important issues were doctor’s certificates when missing a test and negotiations with *VG Wort*.

5 Faculty Policy

One of our ambitious projects in 2016 was the **module catalogue**. It should be updated and brought into a consistent shape. The work is in close collaboration with Dr. Sambale and still in progress.

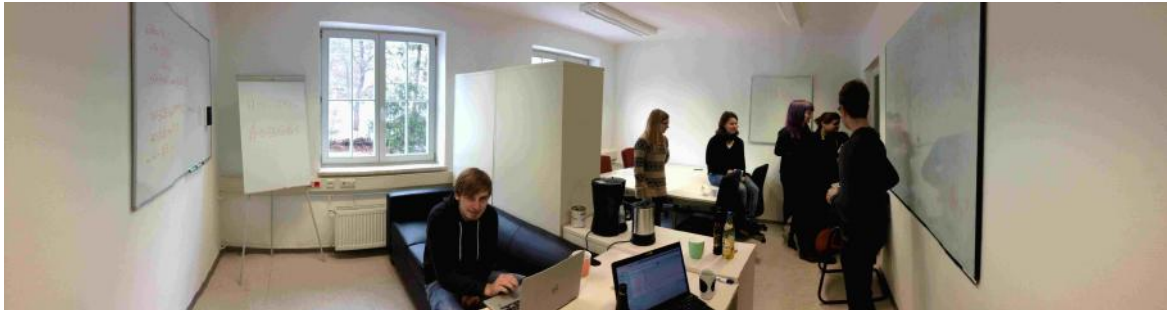
We broadly supported the attempt of some PhD students to re-formulate the regularities about the **obligatory teaching** activities during a doctorate. Since this year it is permitted to partially include courses of *Lehre Lernen*. All in all there appear to be problems with the quality of some of the seminars held by people whose teaching activity is mandatory.

Since there were long-discussed problems with the **teaching degree** program, we drew up a suggestion for a reformed program of study. Our proposal was not accepted and the discussions were indefinitely adjourned.

Another important topic was the program of study for students who enrolled at summer term ("**Sommer-Immatrikulation**"). We discussed several problems, most of which could be traced back to a lack of organization and communication within the faculty. As a consequence, we started to work on our own proposal for an adequate program of study (to be discussed further in the faculty council). Attempts to re-organize the summer program of study as a purely English course are strongly opposed by the FSR.

6 Other Matters

A second student's common room was opened in January. It is located on the first floor of Helmholtzweg 4 (room 119). The room is furnished with several whiteboards, a coffee machine and a computer.



In April we solemnly opened our new outdoor-blackboard, which enables hard-working students to do their homework outside. Of course, also lectures and seminars can be held there.

Apart from purely university-related issues, the whole city had to deal with several demonstrations of far-right political associations. We insistently encouraged all students to participate in the counter-demonstrations.