

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the APS Topical Group on Precision Measurement and Fundamental Constants

Tuesday, 23 March 1999

Atlanta, Georgia

Steve Lundeen, Chair of the Topical Group, called the meeting to order at 3 PM. In addition to most of the Executive Committee, one member was present.

Election results: Lundeen welcomed the newly-elected Executive Committee members Richard Deslattes (Vice-Chair) and Siu-Au Lee (Member-at-Large), whose terms began with the close of the Annual Meeting. Anton Zeilinger, the other newly-elected Member-at-Large, was not present. At the close of the Annual Meeting, Peter Mohr became Chair-Elect, Peter Bender became Chair, and Steve Lundeen became Past Chair. Daniel Heinzen, Linda Young, and Ed Williams retired from the Executive Committee. Continuing members of the Executive Committee are Wayne Itano, Secretary-Treasurer, and Edward Fry, Harold Metcalf, Ralph Conti, and Steve Lamoreaux, Members-at-Large.

Financial report: The latest financial statement shows a balance in the Topical Group's account of \$12,312.30. This is to be reduced by \$600 spent on travel grants, about \$400 on items related to the Topical Group's display at the Centennial Meeting, and the Executive Committee Meeting lunch. The balance one year before was \$7836.47. The increase to \$12,312.30 is mainly due to \$3919.30 originating from a 1995 grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) that finally showed up on the books. The other income to the Topical Group was \$2945, of which \$2250 was from membership dues @ \$5 per member, \$129 was from the April 1998 Meeting, and \$566 was from allocated investment income. The only major expense not already noted was \$1848 for the printing and mailing of two newsletters.

Membership: The official membership total is 450, down slightly from the previous year.

Program Committee: Peter Bender was the Program Chair for the 1999 Centennial Meeting. The Topical Group co-sponsored four invited sessions. Geoffrey Greene organized the Centennial Session on Atomic Clocks in Science and Technology, which was cosponsored by DAMOP. Peter Mohr will be the Program Chair for the April 2000 meeting, which will be with the APS General Meeting. The Topical Group will sponsor two invited sessions as usual.

Unit display: The Topical Group's display for the Centennial Meeting was put together by Ed Williams and Peter Mohr. Expenses of \$2000 and printing services were donated by NIST. The display focused on measurements of the speed of light and length and included some historical artifacts such as meter bars.

Pipkin Award: Steven Lamoreaux was congratulated on being the first recipient of the Pipkin Award, given by the Topical Group. Linda Young is the chair of the award selection committee that will select the next recipient. The award fund contains over \$30,000, which is enough to continue giving the award of \$2500 in alternate years in perpetuity. The APS would like to have the size of Awards increased to \$5000 and the amount of Prizes increased to \$10,000. The size of the Pipkin Prize fund would have to be doubled to meet this guideline. Nominations are limited to those holding a Ph.D. no more than 15 years. Nominations are active for three award selections.

Fellowship Committee: The APS Fellows elected through the Topical Group this year were Gregory Scott Adkins and Siu Au Lee. The chair of last year's Fellowship Committee was Steve Lundeen. Peter Mohr, current chair, reported that he knew of at least 3 candidates. The other committee members are Eric Adelberger and Peter Bender.

Education Committee: Hal Metcalf, Chair, reported that there had been only three applicants for travel grants to the Centennial Meeting, all from the same research group. It was decided to award \$200 to each of them.

New activities: The Executive Committee has authorized \$600 to pay for travel expenses and materials for a person to conduct a workshop at the annual American Association of Physics Teachers meeting on a topic related to precision measurements.

The Newsletter may be increased in size to include items such as book reviews, interviews, and descriptions of meetings.

NIST will be printing wallet cards with the newly adjusted values of the fundamental constants some time soon. The Topical Group mail one of these cards to each member when they become available. It might be possible to include them with a Newsletter.

Travel grants: Student travel grants to the 2000 Annual Meeting will be funded up to a maximum of \$1000 with no more than \$400 to any one person. This is the same amount that was authorized for 1999. The availability of these grants will be publicized in the Newsletter, and an e-mail reminder will be sent to the Topical Group membership.

Open discussion: There were complaints regarding scheduling conflicts at the Meeting, including sessions of the Division of Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics and the Division of Astrophysics being held in parallel with those of the Topical Group. In general, this seems to be a difficult problem to solve.