

Minutes of the Ohio-Region Section of the American Physical Society (approved)
Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the Ohio-Region Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, 9 October 2009, in Room 164 of the Conrades-Wetherell Science Center at Ohio Wesleyan University. In attendance were Gordon Aubrecht, Mellita Caragiu, Jeff Dyck, Elizabeth George, Herbert Jaeger, Dennis Kuhl, Jason Pinkney, Terry Sheridan, Yuri Sikorski, Hyundeok Song, Brad Trees, David Weeks, Paul Wolf, and Perry Yaney.

1. Terry Sheridan presided over the meeting, calling it to order at 10:05 a.m., and beginning with a welcome and introductions.

2. Secretary's report: Elizabeth George

Elizabeth presented minutes of the Spring 2009 Executive Committee meeting. Jeff Dyck moved and Mellita Caragiu seconded that the minutes be accepted. The motion was approved.

3. Treasurer's report: Jeff Dyck

Jeff reported that we have received income from interest, unused funds returned to the section from the spring 2008 and spring 2007 meetings, and abstract fees from the spring 2009 (Ohio Northern) meeting. We have had expenses for student travel grants, meeting advances for fall 2009 and spring 2010, and speaker expenses.

In light of the new BAPS fee structure, Jeff proposed that the cost to OSAPS for BAPS charges for a particular meeting be calculated as follows: $\text{cost for meeting} = (\text{year end BAPS charge}) * (\text{meeting abstract count}) / (\text{total abstract count for year})$. He reminded us that APS is charging us \$25 per abstract, with the first 100 abstracts of the year being free, and that we are currently collecting a \$10 fee per abstract. We will have to watch over time to see how fees collected compare with BAPS charges. Jeff suggests that meeting organizers separately itemize abstract fees collected so we can track this information. Also, it appears that we have never been charged BAPS fees for 2007.

The cost to OSAPS for the Fall 2007 (Miami), Spring 2008 (Youngstown State), and Fall 2008 (Wright State/AFIT) has been finalized. For the Spring 2007 meeting (Eastern Michigan), we have received a check for the unused part of the advance, but haven't received a final meeting report yet. Terry will follow up on this.

Our total financial resources show a net decrease of a few thousand dollars, indicating that our outreach expenditures are successfully keeping our balance under control. Herbert Jaeger asked about the dip in our financial resources in fall 2007. Jeff suggested that was probably due to there being several meeting advances out at one time.

In answer to a question about whether there is a particular balance we should be targeting, no one has heard a specific number from APS. Jeff pointed out that we generally get an income of about \$6000 from membership and \$2000 interest (we earned 5.5% interest in the last cycle). This gives us an idea of how much we need to be spending to keep our balance steady or dropping slightly.

Paul Wolf suggested that we make sure to communicate to meeting chairs that the meeting advance from OSAPS is meant to be spent on the meeting—in other words, these are start-up funds, not a loan. Perry Yaney added that meeting organizers should start with our \$3000 and then try to get additional funds from other sources. Jeff pointed out that additional funding may be available from OSAPS if needed.

Mellita asked about the item for speaker expenses for the Ohio Northern meeting, and Jeff explained that when APS was asked by the speaker for travel expenses, APS contacted Jeff, and Jeff agreed, since the amount was so small. Terry Sheridan suggested that what probably happened is that the speaker didn't make clear to APS that the reimbursement should have come from DPP rather than OSAPS.

4. Membership report: Dennis Kuhl

Dennis reported that the membership stands at 1542, which is a decrease of 30 from the spring. Terry Sheridan mentioned that APS raised division fees and national dues, which might account for some of the drop.

David Weeks said that the signup sheet from this past spring meeting had just been located (it hadn't been sent to APS yet). Dennis will send this in along with the signup sheet from this meeting. There was a discussion about who should have responsibility for the signup sheet. After some discussion, it was agreed that it should be the Membership Secretary (who is typically a Member-at-Large who is appointed to this position).

The question was raised as to what APS does with people who sign up who aren't already members. We think that for students who sign the sheet a free student APS membership is started. That means we should include a column on the signup sheet asking whether the signer is a student.

5. Honors and awards: Terry Sheridan for Bob Hengehold

Two Maxwell awards will be presented at this meeting. Brad Trees will do the presentation based on information from Bob.

6. Webmaster's report: Perry Yaney

Perry reported that he is adding outreach information to the website, and so far has information about the Ohio State Science Day prize we sponsor and about Techfest. Perry requested that we send him information about other outreach activities of OSAPS members, such as science fair judging.

There was a discussion about whether we should keep the job posting link up on the website; although it was a good idea, no one seems to be using it now. It was decided to remove it. Dennis suggested that we might have a job posting board at meetings. He will think about doing a trial run at the next fall meeting. Terry Sheridan suggested contacting local universities (who might not have representatives at the meeting) to solicit additional job postings. David Weeks suggested that the job postings could be part of a general announcements board.

Perry reminded meeting organizers to give him information about meetings early, especially images such as meeting flyers.

7. Meeting reports

Fall 2009 (Ohio Wesleyan University): Brad Trees

Brad presented a handout summarizing the meeting. The meeting's theme is interdisciplinary: Synchronization of Coupled Nonlinear Oscillators. There are 6 invited speakers (including one Southern Ohio Section AAPT invited speaker). There were 108 OSAPS preregistrations and 20 SOS/AAPT preregistrations, and 78 banquet pre-registrations. There are 37 poster and 27 oral abstracts for OSAPS and 7 oral abstracts for SOS/AAPT.

There were 21 student travel grant requests totaling \$2370. Capping each request at \$100 means that \$1858 was awarded. Brad has made sure they're all first authors on abstracts, and David Weeks will make sure they present and need all the funds that they requested (for example, not all will stay overnight) and will check

addresses.

In regard to the student travel grants for future meetings, we discussed whether the information should go to the Vice-Chair or the local meeting chair. It was agreed that having the Vice-Chair (actually the Chair-Elect) handle this makes the most sense in general.

Spring 2010 (Kettering University): Yuri Sikorski

The meeting dates are April 30-May 1. The theme is Industrial & Applied Physics. The invited speakers are signed up and the facilities booked. The organizers asked for suggestions about where to get large poster boards. This meeting won't be joint with any AAPT sections, but SPS has asked to be part of it in some way, perhaps as a zone meeting.

The registration method hasn't yet been decided. The consensus seems to be that the easiest method for the organizers is hardcopy registrations with checks, but they will talk to their IT people about whether all-online registration is possible. It was pointed out that that PayPal takes a 3% cut.

Spring 2009 (Ohio Northern University): Mellita Caragiu

A written report was presented. The organizers ended up reimbursing Ohio Northern in full, since the support from OSAPS and DPP was sufficient. There were 27 posters and 30 oral presentations. Banquet attendance was 95. There were 126 registrations (including 61 students). Jeff Dyck asked about the fact that the report shows a net gain to the ONU Physics department, since the precedent is to return any net balance to OSAPS. Mellita said that there are still adjustments being made (e.g. for the hotel), so this is an interim report. The final report will come after all expenses have been sorted out.

Jeff asked whether it's possible to make a separate accounting of the abstract fees collected. Mellita said that not all the abstract fees that were owed were actually paid, but they can make a separate line for the abstract fees actually received.

8. Future meetings

Fall 2010 (Marietta College): Dennis Kuhl

The meeting will be Oct 8-9, 2010. They have a tentative theme and one speaker so far.

Spring 2011: John Carroll (definite)

Fall 2011: Ball State (definite)

Spring 2012: Jason Pinkney has asked Bowling Green, but that department needs to discuss it before committing.

There was a general discussion of other possibilities. Mentioned were somewhere in western Pennsylvania (Allegheny?), Case Western, and OSU.

9. Abstracts submitted but fees not paid: Terry Sheridan

No one has firm statistics on how big a problem this is. Mellita said in her experience with the ONU meeting the main problem is people who submit more than one abstract and pay for only one. The registration form needs to be clearer about paying \$10 per abstract. Dennis Kuhl asked whether APS does or can remove abstracts if the fee isn't paid, given that the BAPS document is "published" before the meeting. David Weeks suggested asking APS about this. Jeff Dyck volunteered to keep an eye on this issue as he monitors the abstract fee situation.

10. Student travel grant policy: Terry Sheridan

Terry asked whether we should modify our policy, given that demand exceeded the \$1000 limit this time. Dennis Kuhl suggested that it's useful to have a limit, but if the limit is exceeded the Vice-Chair can ask the Executive Committee by email for permission to exceed it. The \$100 per student cap was also discussed. The general feeling is that this individual cap is a good thing (it discourages people from coming from outside the region to present, and means more students get some money).

A motion was made (Dyck/Jaeger) to change the overall cap to \$2000, but was withdrawn after some discussion. Perry Yaney pointed out that the local meeting organizers can always pay for additional student travel expenses out of general meeting funds if they wish. Jeff Dyck moved and Jason Pinkney seconded to change the wording in the policy to a "guideline of \$2000." This motion was approved unanimously.

11. Affiliate Societies Council of Dayton membership: Perry Yaney

Perry asked whether the OSAPS Executive Committee would be interested in recommending that OSAPS join this group if APS agrees. Paul Wolf asked for clarification of the ASC charter and purpose. Perry explained that the ASC is an organization of science and technology organizations in the Dayton area. They carry out various programs including awards and TechFest. Paul asked for information about what the specific benefits to OSAPS of joining ASC would be. Perry said that one is to be part of an organization with a strong STEM outreach presence in the area.

Jason asked for clarification of the awards the organization gives—would being a member of ASC make OSAPS members eligible for these awards? Perry said that the awards are given to people in the Miami Valley area. Dennis Kuhl pointed out that the scope of OSAPS is much larger than the Miami Valley, and asked whether the members of ASC are other organizations that have a similarly larger scope, or whether they're all local Dayton organizations. Perry answered that these are local chapters of the IEEE, SPIE, etc. In the discussion that followed, several people expressed a feeling that it's not appropriate for OSAPS to join meta-organizations. In addition, that many saw a difference between local (Dayton) and regional (OSAPS) organizations.

Terry summarized the sense of the Executive Committee that we're happy to provide support for activities such as TechFest, but that we don't feel it appropriate for OSAPS to join ASC at this time.

12. State Science Day: Gordon Aubrecht

Gordon expressed thanks for OSAPS support of the awards. We typically give a total of \$600 (for \$150, \$100, and \$50 awards in each of two grade groups). The next State Science Day is May 8, 2010. Volunteers are welcome and appreciated (contact Gordon). We judge the second-largest number of projects of any organization. Both OSAPS and the Southern Ohio Section of AAPT are mentioned at the awards ceremony.

Perry asked Gordon to send information for the outreach section of the OSAPS website.

13. Other outreach: Dennis Kuhl

Dennis mentioned that there's a Physics lab event in the Ohio State Science Olympiad (typically in late April). The organizers are receptive to our providing awards for winners of this event. Elizabeth George asked whether other organizations award prizes in this way. Dennis replied that some events are sponsored by groups or companies. Dennis moved and Herbert Jaeger seconded that we commit \$300 to the winners of the Ohio State Science Olympiad Physics lab event. The motion passed. Jeff Dyck said that someone will need to send information about the winners to him so that he can send checks.

Dennis and Jeff also discussed the process for getting CPEP posters for AAPT sections, which we've been doing as part of our outreach efforts.

14. Elections: Terry Sheridan

This spring we will need to elect a Secretary, a Member-at-Large, and a Vice Chair. Terry will appoint a nominating committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth George
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