

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, 28 March 2008, in the Cochran Room, Kilcawley Center, Youngstown State University. In attendance were Mellita Caragiu, Pat Durrell, Jeff Dyck, Elizabeth George, Bob Hengehold, Bob Kaye, Dennis Kuhl, Chris Lemon, Critt Ohlemacher, Terry Sheridan, Brad Trees, David Weeks, Paul Wolf, and Perry Yaney.

1. Brad Trees presided over the meeting, calling it to order at 10:10 am, and beginning with a welcome and introductions.

2. Secretary's Report: Elizabeth George
The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Meetings Reports

Spring 2008, Youngstown State University: Pat Durrell

There were more than 160 preregistrants (including AAPT members) and 120 banquet registrations. This includes 60-70 students, 6 of whom are getting travel support from the section. The online registration worked well (used for about 50% of preregistrations); Pat will talk to the student who set it up to see if it can be made available for use in future meetings. Brad will make an example of a good recent final report (from the Miami U. meeting) available to the YSU organizers for guidance in writing the final report.

Fall 2008, AFIT/Wright State: Paul Wolf

The meeting will be Oct. 10-11, 2008. The topic is Frontiers in Chemical Physics, and invited speakers have been confirmed. Announcement flyers are available, and the meeting website is active (based on the YSU site). The meeting is joint with Southern Ohio AAPT and Dayton section ACS.

Spring 2009, Ohio Northern: Mellita Caragiu

Meeting dates are April 17-18 (the week after Easter). Hotel arrangements have been made (at the new hotel on campus); possible topics are being discussed.

Fall 2009, Ohio Wesleyan: Brad Trees

The date is not yet set. It'll probably be joint with an AAPT section or sections, and it might also be a joint Zone 7 SPS meeting. A tentative topic for the meeting is synchronization (coupled nonlinear systems), which could involve speakers from a variety of disciplines.

4. Local Chair's Final Report

Fall 2007, Miami University: Brad Trees for Herbert Jaeger

Brad commended Herbert and the rest of the organizing committee on a good meeting and a helpful final report. It appears that \$585 for abstract fees has gone into the OSAPS account.

5. Honors and Awards: Bob Hengehold

Maxwell Award: Bob has a spreadsheet of officers going back to 1965. This list includes a group of people who were very active until about 4-5 years ago, so it'd be appropriate to give the award to some of them now. Bob, Mike Crescimanno, and Scott Lee (Toledo) currently make up the Honors and Awards committee and will discuss this. Bob anticipates having awards to give at the Wright State and Ohio Northern meetings.

Fowler Award: Bob has the name of a candidate for this award and will follow through with getting the necessary information. It probably would be good to put out a call for nominations for the Fowler Award, since it's been a while since we did that. Also, Bob would like to standardize the award itself (it's currently a plaque in the shape of Ohio), and any suggestions for that would be appreciated.

6. Membership Report: Brad Trees for Fred Trexler

The membership numbers continue to increase (up 2.9% since May 2007).

Fred is retiring, and so Brad will check on his wishes regarding continuing as Web Ballot Administrator and/or Membership Secretary. It was pointed out that the position of Membership Secretary is not in the official bylaws. It could be assigned as a duty for one of the Members-at-Large.

The committee expressed thanks to Fred for his good work on the web ballot; the election process went smoothly. Congratulations to David Weeks and Jeff Dyck on their elections, and thanks to the nominating committee for their work (Critt Ohlemacher, Paul Wolf, Terry Sheridan, and Philip Taylor).

7. Treasurer's Report: Jeff Dyck

The final reports from the Spring 2006 and Fall 2006 meetings are now in.

The abstract fees for the Fall 2007 meeting haven't been charged to us by APS yet. The last time any BAPS charges appeared was a year ago. Brad suggested we may need to contact them to find out what the policy is. Terry reported that APS leadership said at the Unit Convocation that they were still discussing what the policy for BAPS charges will be.

There was a slight dip in our financial resources in Fall 2007 due to meeting advances. It's still important that we make use of our surplus for student travel and outreach activities.

8. APS Councillor's Report: Paul Wolf

The Council meeting is coming up in 2 weeks; the agenda doesn't seem to include anything of pertinence to the section.

Bob Hengehold mentioned that he maintains a file of materials from Executive Committee meetings since about 1965, but a few holes exist. He'll send out by email a request for any materials that can fill those holes.

New Business

9. Proposed policy and procedures for student travel awards: Brad Trees/Elizabeth George

A draft document was presented proposing that awards will be administered by the Chair-Elect in consultation with the local organizing committee. There will be \$1000 total per meeting available, with a \$100 per student cap. Each student must present his or her own research to be eligible. The application deadline shall be the abstract deadline, and there will be an application form online or downloadable from the meeting website.

In the discussion of this document, Terry mentioned that he learned at the Unit Convocation that at least one other section handles these as travel grants—the unit Chair approves them and sends the social security numbers to APS, who takes care of writing checks to the students (treated as taxable income). There was some discussion of the implications of privacy rules for our being able to collect SSN, although Jeff says we already get SSN for the students we reimburse for travel expenses. There was some feeling that collecting receipts may be too much work for the amount of money involved, and that the advisor signoff should be enough to ensure student honesty. The question was raised about whether local students could apply for such a grant; it was felt that the Chair-Elect can decide this on a case-by-case basis.

Some additional specific wording suggestions were made:

- Remove language about receipts
- The travel grant checks will be sent after the meeting
- Item 2 “within” becomes “at least ... prior”

- Item 4: Preference will be given to students who have not previously received a travel grant in the current academic year

The question was raised as to whether we should adjust the total amount available to be a percentage of our financial resources. The consensus was that since the requests haven't exceeded \$1000 yet, we can keep the \$1000 cap, and the Executive Committee can always increase the amount if required.

Assuming we approve a new policy, we will need to update our entry in the APS "Opportunities for Student Funding" brochure (Elizabeth will check on this). We will also need to change the Treasurer's responsibilities document, since its language related to this is too specific; Jeff will revise it to reflect what we decide.

Brad and Elizabeth will produce a new version of the travel grant policy document and send it out for an email vote.

Some suggestions were also made about the student travel grant application form. The Chair-Elect will be responsible for updating it for each meeting.

- Add a question asking whether the applicant has received an OSAPS travel grant in the current academic year
- Change language from "reimbursement" to "travel grant"
- Remove "Degree" "Do you intend" "Membership" lines
- Move the footnote with criteria for the grant higher up on the page

Old Business

10. Outreach: Techfest 2008: Perry Yaney

Perry provided a slideshow and handout on Techfest 2008. Techfest attendance figures were 2576 students and 360 teachers. Perry thanked OSAPS for its support, and invited OSAPS members to consider bringing an exhibit to expand the physics offerings (the Wright State and UD physics departments already participate).

Bob Hengehold suggested making the national APS aware of our support. There was a motion (Bob Kaye/Chris Lemon) to give Techfest \$2000 for each of the years 2009 and 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Report on Spring 2007 Meeting (Eastern Michigan U): Brad Trees

Brad has been in contact with Ernie Behringer and has sent him the Fall 2007 final report as a template. Ernie has promised to send a full report; he's already provided some data.

12. Report: formation of new geographic section: Brad Trees

Brad attended a Feb. 8 organizational meeting in Chicago. The new section (the "Prairie Section") will most likely become official as soon as the APS Council votes at its April meeting. The section will be centered around the upper Mississippi River valley and extend into western Indiana (Chicago area), but not into Michigan or any farther east. Their first meeting will be Fall 2009 at the University of Iowa.

13. Future Meetings: Brad Trees

Brad has been in contact with Tom Robertson at Ball State, and they're thinking about the possibility of hosting a future meeting. Brad and/or Mellita will follow up.

Dennis Kuhl reported that Marietta is planning on hosting in Fall 2010. This will be joint with the Appalachian Section of AAPT, and possibly also the Southern Ohio section.

Paul Wolf mentioned that the ACS regional meeting is in Dayton in June 2010. As they're beginning to plan for this meeting, they've invited us to participate. We could participate as a special event (in addition to our

regular meetings) by sponsoring some sessions; this might draw in some graduate students and interdisciplinary researchers. It was decided that if we have a member who wants to champion this, it would be fine; we'll leave it open and discuss it in the fall if anyone's interested.

14. Outreach

Brad reported that Cathy Mader had contacted him about the possibility of holding joint SPS zone meetings with our section meetings. Organizers of future meetings are invited to consider this possibility.

CPEP posters have been sent to AAPT sections (OSAAPT, SOSAAPT, MIAAPT) to give away at their spring meetings; we're planning to do this twice a year. We should also include the Appalachian section as well, since they overlap with Ohio and have had joint meetings with us. We can start that this fall at their next meeting.

Jobs bulletin board: Bob Kaye

Bob got Sabine's list of department heads and contacted them to remind them of the service. Two new postings resulted. It might be helpful to put an announcement flyer in the fall meeting registration packet, since fall's the busier season for job ads. We can also email the whole section as a reminder.

The Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at Bowling Green is a week from today. Critt has heard back from the contact there, and so we're going ahead with sponsoring an award this year. This will be a \$50 award sponsored by OSAPS for the "best physics paper." Someone there will be doing the judging for this award this year because of the short notice. It was suggested that we should continue funding at the current level for next year, and that next year's award wording could be "best physics presentation or poster."

15. OSAPS Webpage: Perry Yaney

Perry reminded us to check our contact information on the APS website, since officers' contact information is linked to the APS database, which means Perry can't change it if it's incorrect.

Perry mentioned that he puts a logo or picture for each meeting on the meeting page, and so he'd like to solicit these from the organizing committees.

16. List of Responsibilities of Executive Committee Members: Brad Trees

Brad asked us to finish this document this summer. Those officers who've just completed a term should take responsibility for the section corresponding to the term they've just finished.

17. OSAPS Logo: Mellita Caragiu

The voting is completed, but in the process a number of suggestions were made for improving the selected logo, such as shading; adding "OSAPS;" and improving the accuracy of the map. Mellita would like to contact the person who came up with this logo and also another person who had a similar map, so that the logo can be edited and improved; she'll send that out when it's completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth George
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