

Minutes of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society - (approved)

Executive Committee

The Ohio State University, 18 October 2002

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, October 18, 2002 in Ballroom A of the Blackwell Hotel on The Ohio State University campus. The meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Wolf at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Gordon Aubrecht, Wolfgang Bauer, Robert Brown, Kim Coplin, Bruce Craver, Mike Crescimanno, Klaus Fritsch, Bob B. Hengehold, Graciela Lacueva, Stephen Pinsky, Roger Rollins, James Sullivan, Cyrus Taylor, Brad Trees, Fred Trexler, Paul Wolf, Lewis Wright, Perry Yaney and Warren Young.

1. Chairman Paul Wolf welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Spring 2002 Meeting

Mike noted the minutes should be corrected to read new abstract charges of \$170 per page and also noted the correct spelling of Ron Tabak's name. The minutes of the Spring 2002 Executive Committee meeting were unanimously approved with these corrections.

3. Meetings Reports

Local Chairs' Report, Fall 2002 –Steve Pinsky

Steve noted that there are 6 meetings occurring simultaneously: OS/APS and two AAPT section meetings, a mini string theory conference, a mini nuclear physics conference organized by Bunny Clark, and the annual OSU Physics Department open house. The number of pre-registrations for the meeting is 165 with more registrations expected on-site. Eighty three abstracts have been submitted with 40 of those submitted for publication. One hundred ten people have registered for the banquet. Steve noted that the meeting is costing more than expected; one factor contributing to this was an underestimation of the number of graduate students and emeriti faculty. To help overcome this financial shortfall, Steve suggested we consider increasing registration fees to \$50 for regular meeting attendees and \$10 for emeriti and graduate students. A discussion of meeting costs followed. It was noted that the non-member meeting fee was recently raised while the fee for AAPT members was lowered to \$10. Bob B. asked about the number of posters at this meeting. Steve responded there are 35 poster submissions, and he noted there is significant time and expense related to set up for a poster session. It was also noted that the best time for a poster session is during a social hour so refreshments can be provided. Mike asked about the number of AAPT registrants, noting this is one group OS/APS is encouraging to attend meetings. Steve responded that there are approximately 50 AAPT registrants for the meeting.

Local Chair's Final Report, Spring 2002 – Mike Crescimanno, Warren Young

The final meeting report was distributed and discussed. Mike pointed out there were 89 registrations for the meeting including 44 faculty and 41 students. He commented the large number of students resulted in the banquet being heavily subsidized. The Youngstown State University Physics Department contributed \$1300 toward this meeting instead of the \$700 that was expected. Mike noted he will send a list of meeting attendees to Graciela.

Spring 2003, Michigan State University – Wolfgang Bauer

The meeting will be held on April 11-12 and the theme will be “Quantum Computing”. The members of the organizing committee are V. Zelevinsky (MSU), C. Mader (Hope College), M. Harrison (MSU), B. Golding (MSU), J. Finck (CMU), R. Brown (CWRU), R. Bellwied (WSU) and W. Bauer (MSU). The Friday sessions will be held at the Kellogg Center and the Saturday sessions will be in the new Biomedical Physical Sciences building. The Institute for Quantum Science is a meeting co-sponsor. Possible invited speakers include Chris Monroe (U. of Michigan), Mikhail Lukin (Harvard), Edward Farhi (MIT), Mark Dykman (MSU) and Michel Devoret (Yale). Wolfgang asked for ideas for the after dinner speaker. Richard Lenski and Bill Schmidt (TIMS) were suggested. Brad noted that Wolfgang needs to make a request to him for the \$3000 from the section. Fred suggested that the meeting notice be sent to APS members within a 150 mile radius of MSU. He will follow up by getting the appropriate zip codes to Wolfgang. Graciela asked about the needs for mailing labels. A discussion of using electronic registration followed. Steve commented he had this set up for the OSU meeting, but noted it cost \$10 to register each individual. Paul asked if the AAPT representation in Michigan had been contacted. Wolfgang noted that a joint meeting with AAPT is not planned at this time.

Fall 2003, Case Western Reserve University – Robert Brown, Cyrus Taylor

Bob thanked Wolfgang for his leadership and reminded the Executive Committee that the MSU meeting is a result of the interest of OS/APS in branching out into Michigan. Bob then introduced Cyrus Taylor noting that Cyrus had given an invited tutorial on the topic of physics and business at the March Meeting. The theme of the Fall 2003 meeting will be “Physicists Get Down to Business” and it will be held on October 17-18, 2003. Bob and Cyrus as local co-chairs have contacted local industries and they expect financial support from those sources. The meeting will be on the CWRU campus and they are working on an invited speakers list.

Spring 2004, Ohio University – Roger Rollins, Louis Wright

Roger and Louis said they want to get the date set as soon as possible. Bruce will contact APS regarding the dates of April 16-17 or April 23-24. The topic will be “Extragalactic Astrophysics in New Era of X-ray Astronomy”. They plan to invite astronomers from all over the state since many astronomers are not APS members. They expect ~200 attendees and plan to hold the meeting in OU’s new classroom building. In the past, they

noted they have held joint meetings with the Appalachian AAPT section, but this meeting might not be a joint meeting.

Fall 2004, Oakland University – Paul Wolf

Paul reported for David Garfinkle from Oakland. They do plan to host a meeting and David will attend the MSU meeting.

Spring 2005, University of Dayton – Perry Yaney

Perry will check on the possibility of this meeting being switched with the Oakland meeting. Perry also noted a new neuroscience center at UD should be completed by the end of 2003. He also said this would be a meeting co-hosted by UD and AFIT as they have done in the past. The topic will be something in the optical area, perhaps nanophotonics. Perry asked about meeting dates wondering if the meeting could be held the second week in May. It was noted that schools on semesters often end prior to that time.

Bob B. suggested that the Executive Committee propose ideas for future meeting hosts.

4. Secretary's Report - Kim Coplin, Bruce Craver

Kim reminded the committee that minutes for Executive Committee meetings are posted on the OS/APS web site.

5. Treasurer's Report - Brad Trees, Klaus Fritsch

The treasurer's report was distributed and discussed.

6. Honors and Awards Committee Report - Bob Hengehold

Bob H. reported that the Maxwell Award would be presented to Bunny Clark. She will be the first to receive both the Fowler and Maxwell Awards. Ron Winters will receive the Fowler Award. Bob H. also asked the committee to encourage nominations for these two awards. Nominations can come from any member of the society. The form for nominations is on the OS/APS web site.

Jim Sullivan noted that the SOS/AAPT award will be presented to Gordon Aubrecht at their meeting on Saturday.

7. Membership Committee – Graciela Lacueva/Fred Trexler

The current OS/APS membership is at 1148 which is 2.69% of the total APS membership. Paul will remind APS members to check the Ohio Section box when renewing their membership.

8. APS Council Report – Perry Yaney

Perry highlighted several items from APS Council. These included a new industrial fellows program, a statement on student assessment, and a program for improving science teaching (PhysTec). Perry also commented that APS asks that all section members be involved in any section vote either by electronic or paper ballot. Perry noted that there are now 7 APS sections. He has attempted to contact the voting representatives for the sections without getting much response. He is concerned that the method for section representation on the APS Council is not working well. Perry emphasized that the people who are the section voting representatives need to communicate with all 7 sections. Paul commented that this should be discussed at the Unit Convocation. He will ask other section chairs if they are getting information from the section representatives.

9. Electronic Voting/Election Nominations – Fred Trexler

Fred contacted Elizabeth Higgins at APS and learned that, in terms of electronic voting, APS currently supports “e-ballots”. At this time, APS does not support Web balloting. However, Fred feels Spring Arbor could provide the support for OS/APS Web balloting. A discussion of how this process would work followed. Bob B. spoke of his experience with FIAP. When they made a switch to Web voting, they lost ~50% of the vote. He commented it is important to send email to remind people to vote. He also noted APS helped FIAP with the Web balloting process. Mike said it will be important to keep the process simple and manageable. Fred will contact FIAP and the New England and Texas sections to learn about their experiences with electronic voting. He will also set up test pages on the Web and send the links to the Executive Committee for a trial. Roger also noted that OU could support the OS/APS needs in this area. He also commented that we should pursue any help APS can give us in terms of set up. Paul noted two issues. First, we need to determine the mechanics of how this process will work. Fred can check with other sections and suggest a process. Second, we need to modify the OS/APS by-laws. Fred, Paul and Gordon will check on the status of the by-laws. Gordon suggested we have electronic voting in place by the spring of 2004. Roger will also look at the implementation issue. Fred moved that

“The election process for the Ohio Section will include electronic voting no later than the spring of 2004 with a goal of implementation by the spring of 2003.”

The motion was seconded by Gordon. After discussion regarding the by-law status, the motion was unanimously approved.

10. By-Laws and Hints for Hosts – Perry Yaney

Perry reported that Bruce and Bob B. are the other members of the by-law committee. Perry has corresponded with Steve Baker of the Texas section regarding their by-laws. Perry will formulate a proposal to the Executive Committee. The new by-laws will go to APS Council for approval, then to OS/APS membership for final approval. Louis suggested that the by-laws be written in such a way that section

expansion would be easy. Paul encouraged Perry to have a proposal ready for discussion at our next meeting.

Perry also reported that he has asked Bob H. and Ron Winters to help with rewriting the “Hints for Hosts” document. He hopes to reorganize the material so it is easier to read and use. Mike commented that the chronological format was quite helpful.

11. Duties for the Chair – Robert Brown

Bob B. reported that he has assembled a document detailing the duties of the chair. A draft of this document was distributed to the committee. Bob asked that corrections and suggestions be sent to him. He will then turn it over to Paul.

12. Outreach/Student Prizes – Paul Wolf, Mike Crescimanno

Paul noted that many APS units are doing outreach activities. He would like the committee to consider ways to involve students more in our meetings. One possibility is to give a prize for the best paper. Mike has looked at other sections to see what they do in this area. Two sections have undergraduate prizes with the Texas Section giving awards for best undergraduate talk and poster and graduate talk and poster. The Texas Section stipulates that students must be first author on the paper, and they must indicate at the time of submission that they wish to be considered for the competition. Discussion about how to fund this followed. The Texas Section gives 8 \$150 prizes per meeting. Gordon reminded the committee that we currently do outreach with the State Science Day. Mike noted that funding for prizes might come locally, from corporate sponsors, or from OS/APS. Mike proposed that an evaluation/award committee would consist of 5 members: 1 from the Executive Committee, 1 local representative, and 3 at-large members. This committee would meet during the business lunch to review documentation. The committee would divide reviewing duties. It was noted that students would need to submit, perhaps via email, a few paragraphs describing their contributions to the research. Steve commented that he felt this could be discerned by the award committee during the judging. He also suggested a “student competition session” that would include all the student presentations being considered for awards. Mike said he would still consider it important for students to submit their contributions prior to the meeting. Bob B. commented that a number of societies give student awards. Paul asked the committee if there was a sense of agreement that we should go forward with this. Louis asked how useful it would be, and Graciela asked if this would discourage those who don’t win prizes.

Mike moved that:

The Ohio Section institute two student prizes at each meeting. This activity will begin at the spring 2003 meeting.

This motion was seconded by Klaus. Discussion followed. Perry noted that poster presentations could present a problem since the poster may not be entirely the work of the

student. Wolfgang commented it is easy to discern the student contribution during the poster session. The motion passed with two opposed. Mike encouraged Bruce and Graciela to discuss their concerns with him.

Mike next discussed the “New Community Initiative” to attempt to reach faculty in the first 6 years of their career. Ideally, this initiative would get new people involved in the section leadership. Mike will send a notice to chairs inviting new faculty to a session, perhaps lunch, to discuss what the section can do for them and what they can do for the section.

13. Ohio K-12 Science Curriculum Issue

Paul is modifying the letter regarding the Ohio science standards issue. This letter will go first to APS then to the Ohio legislature.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly A. Coplin