

Minutes of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society (approved)  
Executive Committee Meeting  
14 October 2005, Cleveland State University

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, 14 October 2005 in Room 107 of the Cole Center at Cleveland State University. In attendance were Gordon Aubrecht, Ernest Behringer, Mike Crescimanno, Jeff Dyck, Klaus Fritsch, Elizabeth George, Emily Heckman, Robert Hengehold, Herbert Jaeger, Sabine Jeschonnek, Miron Kaufman, Elizabeth Mann, Crittenden Ohlemacher, Claude Pruneau, Cameron Reed, Kiril Streletzky, Brad Trees, Fred Trexler, Uwe Trittman, Timothy Vierheller, Paul Wolf, Perry Yaney, and Ulrich Zurcher.

1. Uwe Trittman presided over the meeting, calling it to order at 10:00 am and beginning with introductions and greetings.

2. Secretary's report: Elizabeth George

Klaus Fritsch pointed out that in item 7 of the Spring 2005 Executive Committee minutes, the balance should be \$38,242.80. With this correction, the minutes were accepted unanimously.

3. Meetings reports

Fall 2005 (Cleveland State): Ulrich Zurcher

A handout summarizing the meeting was provided. There are 74 fac/industry/govt attendees and 79 student attendees (not including SPS Zone meeting attendees or CSU students). Abstracts were received for 34 posters and 35 oral talks. Invited speakers are Mehran Kardar, George Phillies, Michael Dennin, and Jearl Walker. There will be a workshop on ABET, as well as an optics workshop for high school teachers at Shaker Heights Saturday morning.

Uwe Trittman expressed appreciation to the local organizers for putting together such a good meeting on short notice.

Spring 2006 (Wayne State): Claude Pruneau

Another handout was provided. The meeting is March 31-April 1, 2006, with a theme of Physics of the Early Universe. It will be a joint meeting with the Michigan AAPT. The meeting website is up at <http://rhic23.physics.wayne.edu/OSAPS-MAAPT/>. Invited speakers are S. Perlmutter, F. Adams, T. Slater, and a yet-to-be-named speaker on heavy ion physics. Suggestions for an after-dinner speaker were discussed. There is a tentative schedule and a tentative budget, which includes \$3000 from the section.

Fall 2006 (U. Akron Wayne College): Tim Vierheller

The meeting is October 13-14, 2006, with a theme of polymer surfaces and interfaces. The speaker list is coming together. Hotels are in Wooster, and the banquet is planned for a restaurant in Smithville. Tim will be speaking to Wooster faculty about their possible participation; he also has support from the University of Akron main campus. The usual practice for travel support and an honorarium for the invited speakers was discussed. The meeting organizers usually cover expenses; sometimes they provide a modest honorarium within the budget limitations. It was pointed out that government/national lab employees aren't allowed to accept honorariums.

Mike Crescimanno pointed out that 2006 is the tricentenary of Benjamin Franklin's birth and there may be some resources (see [www.benfranklin300.com](http://www.benfranklin300.com)) available especially for the fall meeting (tie-in to surface science).

Spring 2007 (Eastern Michigan University): Ernest Behringer

It seems to be cheaper to hold Friday sessions at the conference center and Saturday sessions at the college. The preliminary budget is about \$7000. The tentative theme is Energy and Society. It hasn't been decided yet whether it'll be a joint meeting with the MIAAPT.

Fall 2007 (Miami University): Herbert Jaeger

This meeting is in the very early planning stages. The theme is undergraduate research. This is a possible joint meeting with the Southern Ohio Section of AAPT.

Spring 2008: Mike Crescimanno

Youngstown State has tentatively agreed to host the meeting. There are two new astronomers in the department, so the theme will be related to astronomy. 2008 is a year of several significant anniversaries: YSU's 100th anniversary and the 70th anniversary of OSAPS. With the upcoming OSAPS anniversary, Mike has done some research on the history of the section and has found that the APS historical archive has conflicting information about the OSAPS founding date and some misspellings of the names of officers. Bob Hengehold commented that he and Perry Yaney had contacted APS to straighten those problems out before, and will get in back in touch with them to make sure they have the correct dates and spellings. Bob and Perry have a lot of historical material on the section and will work on getting this material together in preparation for this anniversary meeting.

Fall 2008 is open and ideas are solicited. Possible interest by Wright State/AFIT was expressed.

Mike Crescimanno put forward an idea for a future conference at a resort. There is an OSU lab on Firelands that's available for conferences.

Appreciation was expressed to Mike for his hard work on lining up so many future meetings.

4. Spring 2005 local chair's final report: Perry Yaney provided a handout summarizing the meeting. The theme was Nanophotonics. The total registration was 235, including 109 students. There were 33 posters and 54 oral papers presented. There was essentially no charge to OSAPS. The abstracts and preamble are prepared and will go into BAPS soon. Bob Hengehold mentioned that publication in BAPS was requested for only 21 abstracts. It was suggested that we could publish the titles of the other talks in order to show what was presented at the meeting. The question was raised as to whether APS would publish the titles without abstracts. Perhaps the titles could be listed in the preamble. It was questioned whether this is a precedent that we should set. There was some discussion of why so few presenters pay for their abstracts to be published. BAPS is not considered an archival publication, although it meets the needs of some (government contractors, graduate students) to have an abstract published as a proof of research activity. The consensus was that we should encourage people to publish in BAPS, make sure that the titles of all talks are on the OSAPS website, and reference the website in the preamble that's published in BAPS.

Appreciation for putting on a good meeting was expressed to the UD and AFIT organizers.

5. Honors and Awards: Bob Hengehold

Bob reminded us that the Maxwell Award is given for service to the section, and the Fowler Award is given for research by a person with ties to Ohio. He encouraged nominations, especially for the Fowler award.

The possibility of changing the conditions on the Fowler award to include Michigan was discussed.

Perry Yaney reminded the group that our bylaws say two of the three people on this committee

need to be past officers. Bob Hengehold will come up with some names and submit them to Uwe.

#### 6. Membership committee: Fred Trexler

Fred presented a handout summarizing the recent election and current membership data. As of 7 October 2005, there were 1327 members (which does not agree with the numbers on the APS spreadsheet). This is a 14% increase over April 2004.

Fred also reported that the web balloting worked smoothly for the most recent election. He recommended that in the future the nominating committee provide a specific set of information for each candidate to the web ballot administrator. Critt Ohlemacher reported getting no email messages about the web balloting—Fred will look into that.

Thanks were expressed to Fred for his work on the web ballots and the membership data.

Klaus Fritsch pointed out that his income data is based on 1211 members in spring 2005—he isn't sure where the discrepancy in the membership numbers comes from.

It was agreed that we should list all current officers with the expiration dates of their terms on the website, on ballots, in the first announcements of meetings, and with the agendas for Executive Committee meetings. In spring 2004, Sabine Jeschonnek started a 3-year term and Cameron Reed started a 2-year term, and so their terms expire in spring 2007 and spring 2006, respectively.

#### 7. (Interim) Treasurer's report: Klaus Fritsch

Klaus presented a draft of a document on Duties of the Treasurer and requested feedback.

The procedure for student travel grants was clarified: \$1000 maximum total for all students per meeting; no more than \$300 per student; determined by the Chair-Elect in consultation with the local organizing committee.

Income and expenses were noted; the balance as of August 31 2005, is \$37,834.77.

Klaus noted that the interest rate for the OSAPS account with APS will be lowered from 7% to 6.5%.

We should keep an eye on reports of membership numbers to see whether the discrepancy among various sources continues.

Thanks were expressed to Klaus for his service as Treasurer and Interim Treasurer.

#### 8. APS councilor's report: Paul Wolf

Paul presented several items discussed at the APS Council meeting in April 2005. He will send out future reports to the OSAPS chair for email distribution to OSAPS members. The next meeting of the Council will be 19-20 November.

#### 9. Election

Nominations are needed by January 1 (90 days before the spring meeting).

#### 10. Member services: Sabine Jeschonnek

Sabine reports that it's all right with APS for us to advertise local or temporary/adjunct jobs on our website (both positions wanted and positions available). This service should be for OSAPS members. It was pointed out that it's easier to maintain if only positions available are advertised. We can announce the availability of this service at meetings and via email. A motion was made and seconded that "Departments in our geographic region can send job announcements of a local or temporary nature to Sabine Jeschonnek for posting on the OSAPS website." The motion passed unanimously.

11. OSAPS webpage: Paul Wolf

APS is making it possible for units to have their websites hosted by APS while still being able to directly maintain their own sites. Roger Rollins has done OSAPS a great service by hosting our site at Ohio University, but eventually the OSAPS site should be independent of a particular individual or university. Mike Crescimanno expressed concern about possible restrictions associated with having APS host our site. Perhaps we could use the APS site as a home page, but link to another (third-party) site that would be maintained by the OSAPS webmaster. Fred Trexler pointed out that APS is responsible for backing up the sites they host. Mike Crescimanno suggested that OSAPS needs to have control over archiving material on the site; we don't want APS to remove things from our site without our knowledge.

Paul Wolf will contact APS to find out what's involved in their hosting our unit website and what, if any, restrictions there are.

12. Membership drive: Mike Crescimanno

Mike reported that membership drives at previous meetings have been successful in recruiting new OSAPS members. He will make an announcement about OSAPS membership and pass around a signup sheet again at this meeting.

13. Other ideas: Cameron Reed asked whether we have ever given prizes for student talks. Apparently this has been tried in the past, but it doesn't work well without a critical mass of presenters.

14. Procedures to help new executive committee members: Documents spelling out the duties for each position are being drafted. Elizabeth George will collect these documents and distribute them by email and on the web page.

15. Other issues: Gordon Aubrecht

Gordon is on the committee that's working on the ISO/IEC standard on electromagnetism. He distributed a handout listing problems he has identified with the draft standards. Three major problems were identified:

(1) **D** and **H** (rather than **E** and **B**) as fundamental quantities

(2) The use of "electric field strength" and "magnetic field strength" for "electric field" and "magnetic field"

(3) The use of the units "volt ampere" and "var"

He would like a sense of support from the Ohio Section and our permission to pursue this issue with APS. Paul Wolf asked whether there is any connection between these standards and the SI standards. Gordon replied that these boards all tend to adopt each others' standards, and once something gets into a standard, it's hard to get it out again. He mentioned that AAPT once sanctioned NIST over their mass/weight terminology.

Paul Wolf moved that "The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society endorses Gordon Aubrecht's efforts to counter any changes to standard units and names of quantities without the formal input of the APS and other members of the physics community, and we endorse his move to raise these issues to the APS and other national scientific bodies." The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

16. World Year of Physics event at Case Western: Elizabeth Mann for Bob Brown

The event, Einstein's Legacy, will be held at Severance Hall on November 14, 2005. In conjunction with this, they're holding a national contest for high school students, teachers, and college undergraduates to choose the top physicists of the 20th century. They request OSAPS help with advertising. We can do a general email broadcast to our membership and make an

announcement at this meeting.

17. Section name:

Paul Wolf gave a brief history. When Bob Brown was chair of OSAPS, APS required a membership level of 3% for units (which is no longer the case), and so OSAPS leadership looked outside Ohio, specifically at Michigan, due to existing strong research interactions between Ohio and Michigan. OSAPS leadership has sought to measure the interest of physicists from Michigan in OSAPS by holding meetings in Michigan and recruiting members and Executive Committee candidates from Michigan, and to see if Ohio physicists would be willing to attend meetings in Michigan. Gordon Aubrecht pointed out that there has been a long history (at least 15 years) of reaching out to other surrounding states as well as to Michigan. Elizabeth Mann said that recently APS has told us that they're fine with what we're doing in including neighboring states.

A general discussion followed. The name "Ohio Section" may put off people in other states, and makes it harder to explain about hosting meetings and recruiting outside Ohio. Since there is a strong Ohio Section history, we may want to keep "Ohio" in the new name. Some wondered whether "Ohio/Michigan Section" might alienate people in other neighboring states. Fred Trexler offered that Ohio makes up 46% of our membership, and the percentage from Michigan is not much greater than that from Pennsylvania, Indiana, or Illinois; meeting attendance data would also be interesting to look at. Perry Yaney pointed out that our bylaws say "Ohio and neighboring regions"—one solution could be to be more explicit and proactive about publicizing and including "neighboring regions," but keep the Ohio Section name for historical reasons. Bob Hengehold mentioned that we've used a possible name change as an incentive for hosting meetings in Michigan. Claude Pruneau said that in his experience it's fine to use the name "Ohio Section" with physicists from Michigan and then explain that OSAPS extends beyond Ohio; the most important thing is to build a tradition of cooperation between Ohio and Michigan. Several people proposed "Ohio Region" as being properly descriptive and inclusive. "Great Lakes" seems too broad; in addition, we want to retain the acronym OSAPS. Paul Wolf mentioned that we might also want to change our bylaws to name the neighboring states explicitly. The membership would have to vote on this and APS would have to approve it.

Paul Wolf moved that "The Executive Committee of OSAPS proposes a name change to the Ohio-Region Section of the APS, while retaining the acronym OSAPS. The bylaws should reflect this new name and specifically name the neighboring states." Elizabeth Mann seconded; the motion passed with one abstention.

Uwe Trittmann will check with APS to make sure we've done everything we need to do before proceeding with the balloting on this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth George  
Secretary, Ohio Section