

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

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, 13 October 2006, in Room F102 of Wayne College, The University of Akron. In attendance were Jim Andrews, Mellita Caragiu, Jeff Dyck, Elizabeth George, Robert Hengehold, Herbert Jaeger, Bob Kaye, Critt Ohlemacher, Brad Trees, Uwe Trittman, Tim Vierheller, Paul Wolf, and Perry Yaney.

1. Critt Ohlemacher presided over the meeting, calling it to order at 10:15 a.m., and beginning with a welcome and an expression of thanks to Tim Vierheller as host of the Fall meeting.

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

3. Meetings reports:

Spring 2007, Eastern Michigan University, Critt Ohlemacher for Ernest Behringer:

An update from Ernest Behringer was presented. The topic of the meeting (May 4-5, 2007) is "Physics, Energy, and Society." They are still looking for several invited speakers. Elizabeth George will check with APS to make sure the dates are clear.

The organizing committee had raised the possibility of charging members of related professional societies the APS member registration fee in order to facilitate wider participation. Paul Wolf pointed out that creating such a policy may help attract ACS (for example) members to our meetings. Bob Hengehold mentioned the possibility of holding a joint meeting with these groups, as we've done with AVS in the past. There was a question raised as to whether there is a national APS policy on this issue, although the fee structure has normally been up to the section. We could charge a reduced rate for members of other societies, though whatever we do, we need to take the budget into account. In the past, when we've had joint meetings with AAPT, AAPT members have paid a lower registration fee. Perry Yaney pointed out that the bylaws say that nonmembers have to pay a surcharge determined by the Executive Office (the history behind this is that nonmember attendees used to come primarily from industry and could afford a surcharge). Instituting a third level of fees for members of related societies makes sense and doesn't violate our bylaws. The consensus was that the number of nonmembers that attend OSAPS meetings depends on the meeting location. Critt Ohlemacher will talk with Ernie Behringer about this issue. A joint meeting might be possible to arrange; otherwise we can consider charging a third rate level for members of related societies. Paul Wolf suggested that we should revisit the question of the fee structure sometime.

Fall 2007, Miami University, Herbert Jaeger:

The meeting (joint with Southern Ohio Section AAPT) will be held Oct 19-20, 2007; the dates have already been approved by APS. The theme is undergraduate research. They are in the process of assembling speakers and reserving rooms.

Spring 2008, Youngstown State University, Jim Andrews:

The tentative dates are March 28-29; Elizabeth George will check with APS about those dates, but it's believed that they don't overlap with the March meeting. The meeting will be joint with Ohio Section AAPT. Various themes are being discussed. The meeting will coincide with the 100th anniversary of YSU.

Fall 2006, University of Akron Wayne College, Tim Vierheller:
Everything looks fine. There are 20 posters and about 27 contributed talks. Attendance includes 75 preregistrations, 15 high school students, 20 U. Akron students, and an estimate of about 110 walkups. There will be about 45 at the banquet.

4. Spring 2006 Local Chair's final report

A brief report was presented. It was noted that the Executive Committee breakfast was not billed to OSAPS. Also, we haven't received the money for the abstracts that were to be published in BAPS (of which there were only three). It appears that the meeting lost a small amount of money. A more detailed report is needed.

5. Honors and Awards Committee: Bob Hengehold

Bob reported that he has assembled a spreadsheet with a list of past officers. He is working on possible Maxwell Awards for future meetings. It would be nice to give a Maxwell Award to someone from Michigan at the Eastern Michigan meeting. He is also looking hard for people for the Fowler Award, which we have not given since 2004. Soliciting nominations by email and contacting department chairs to ask them to nominate faculty in their departments has been tried and hasn't worked well in the past. It may be worth contacting chairs, giving them a list of people in their departments who are fellows of APS, and asking that they nominate one or more of them. Bob is also working to recruit additional members of the committee.

According to Bob's statistics, APS fellows currently constitute about 12% of OSAPS, which is about at the norm for sections. (Fred Trexler's membership report lists 148 Fellows and 1453 members (just over 10%).) We should still consider making section nominations or endorsements for Fellows candidates.

Uwe Trittman asked whether we need to change anything in the bylaws or award descriptions in order to give awards to people from Michigan. According to Bob, the only criterion for the Maxwell award is service to the section, but the Fowler preamble would need to be changed.

6. Membership committee, Critt Ohlemacher for Fred Trexler:

Fred Trexler has summarized current membership statistics. There was an increase of 126 members (9.5%) from October 2005 to October 2006. Fred has also made some recommendations for procedures for the next election.

As we've done in the past, we will pass around a signup sheet before the second invited speaker's talk in order to get the names and signatures of attendees who wish to join OSAPS.

7. Treasurer's report, Jeff Dyck:

There has been little activity in our account since the last meeting. The Fall 2005 (Cleveland State) meeting's final net cost was \$4446.94; abstract costs and payments were pretty well balanced. We have been charged for BAPS page charges for the Spring 2006 meeting (2 pages).

We have apparently not yet been charged for publication of the Spring 2005 BAPS abstracts (estimated to be \$1080). Bob Hengehold will check on this so that we can close that meeting out.

The summary section comparison spreadsheet sent around earlier this summer by Jeff Dyck shows that we still have substantial financial resources. Based on data from APS, the assets per member for the geographical sections range from a low of \$4.51 (California) to a high of \$28.67 (Texas). The Ohio Region section is second highest, at \$24.14 per member. The average for all sections is about \$16 per member.

8. APS Council report, Paul Wolf:

Paul presented a summary handout of items of interest to OSAPS from the April 2006 Council meeting and the June 2006 Executive Board meeting.

- There has been an increase in APS membership over the last year, especially in the student member category. We should continue the practice of signing up new members at our section meetings.
- A task force has been established to consider the future of the April meeting; it's investigating modifications to the meeting, including the possibility of a joint meeting with AAPT.
- The task force on ethics education is focusing on assembling case studies on ethical issues relevant to physics.
- The Council passed a motion to allow the Ohio Section name change to the Ohio Region Section.
- A task force to increase participation by industrial physicists has been commissioned. A large majority of industrial physicists don't know about FIAP, for example. The section may want to readdress the issue of outreach to physicists in industry.
- The Board has expressed significant interest in expanding and promoting physics education programs. One suggestion was to resurrect the Physics Alliance (linking physics departments with local school science teachers and departments). This is another possible section outreach activity.

9. Election, Critt Ohlemacher:

We need nominations for Vice Chair, Secretary, Member at Large, and Student Member at Large (the latter is a 2-year term). The purpose of the Student Member at Large is to be the representative/conduit for the student population in the section. We would like to have the ballot go out around the first of the year. We also need a nomination committee.

10. APS Unit Convocation in February, Critt Ohlemacher/Jeff Dyck:

No dates have been set yet, but participation is solicited, particularly the new officers.

11. Web page, Perry Yaney:

Perry has discovered that in the minutes of the Michigan State (2003) meeting, the treasurer's report in the minutes has been lined out. Elizabeth George will investigate this, as she has the original records. Also, the contact information (institution, email address) for secretary should be added to the minutes in the future.

The list of current officers should always be given as part of each meeting announcement; that instruction may not be in the Hints for Hosts document, but it should be.

Perry has not yet had time to pursue the job listing/bulletin board project.

12. Section name, Critt Ohlemacher:

We need to put this issue on the ballot now that APS Council has given it their approval; Critt will pull the needed information and wording together. Perry Yaney will also put this information on the Website once it's available.

13. Procedures to help new Executive Committee members, Critt Ohlemacher:

Critt is updating the document describing the Chair's duties; it should be finished early next year. Uwe Trittmann has a similar document for the Vice Chair, and there are also documents for the Secretary and

Treasurer. Once these are done, Elizabeth George will assemble them and send them to all officers and to Perry Yaney to go on the Website. The Councilor description is in the bylaws, and Paul Wolf has been putting together a synopsis of this position for the other sections.

14. Membership drive, Critt Ohlemacher:

We will pass around a signup sheet as usual during the meeting for attendees to indicate their desire to join OSAPS.

15. Other old business:

OSAPS Executive Committee emailing list: Elizabeth George has contacted APS about this, but nothing has been worked out yet.

Future meeting planning: For Fall 2008, an AFIT/Wright State meeting is definite (no theme/dates have been chosen yet). A meeting at John Carroll has been discussed for Spring 2009, but there is not a firm commitment yet. Critt Ohlemacher suggested that they might explore the possibility of holding a joint meeting with the Chemistry department. They will keep discussing this. For Fall 2009, Ohio Wesleyan is still probably fine.

16. Outreach, Critt Ohlemacher:

Currently, the section does optics workshops for high school teachers at its meetings. For these workshops, we buy OSA kits for the teachers. We charge teachers \$10 to encourage attendance. We could consider including college teachers of introductory courses in the workshop audience. At the Wayne College meeting, the workshop will be given for three high school teachers. There was a lot of interest in this workshop, but many teachers turned out to have conflicts with the date. Jim Andrews will talk to Rex Berney about holding this workshop at the Youngstown State meeting.

We also currently fund special Physics prizes at the State Science Fair.

At the July special meeting on outreach, three proposals were selected to come before the Executive Committee.

The first proposal is to provide Website content of use to teachers. The main idea is to choose and organize good sites, and link them to age/grade level and the appropriate science standards. Perry Yaney pointed out that the official OSAPS website is fairly structured, and so it's probably easier to link to outside sites than to include the content on our site. Perry is willing to put a site up at UD, and a high school teacher may be able to do the initial work of finding, organizing, and linking the sites. The site could also include a speaker list and a FAQ about physics.

The second proposal is to provide a physics prize at the Junior Science & Humanities Symposium held in Toledo.

The third proposal is to give a set of Contemporary Physics Education Project (CPEP) posters to high school teachers who attend OSAPS meetings. The price of the posters is \$75 for a set of 4.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned for lunch at 12:04 p.m., and reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

Other proposals were solicited.

Paul Wolf presented a preliminary idea to select a small number of high school students and teachers to fund (travel and per diem) to spend a few days at a research lab over, say, Spring Break. Critt

Ohlemacher suggested that, alternatively, we could fund scholarships for existing summer programs for high school teachers and students. It was suggested that we could run a trial version of one of these ideas at a future meeting.

Perry Yaney described the Miami Valley Techfest, which is a two-day festival held in February. It provides outreach to counties around Dayton to interest students in science, technology, engineering, and math, and includes workshops for high school teachers and hands-on exhibits. There are on the order of 3000 registered students (most from pre-high-school levels). They've recently experienced the loss of ongoing foundation support and so are seeking funding for about \$50,000. We could also send out a message to OSAPS members informing them of Techfest and inviting their participation. This would also provide exposure for APS.

Possible funding levels for Techfest were discussed. Critt Ohlemacher moved that we give Techfest \$3000 (the same level at which we fund section meetings) over the next two years to support high school teacher workshops and the development of future scientists. This would be \$1500 for 2007 and \$1500 for 2008. Paul Wolf seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The discussion returned to the Junior Science & Humanities Symposium. The organizers would supply judges, and we would provide funding for the prize. Jon Secaur attends this event, and reports that there are usually 30-40 projects of similar quality to those at the State Science Fair, but with somewhat different emphasis and rules. There are several physics-related projects each year. In addition to the prize money, we should also provide a certificate or plaque identifying the prize and our organization. We should also invite the winning student and his/her teacher to an OSAPS meeting to be recognized at the banquet. It was suggested that OSAPS should have a representative at the symposium, at least the first time through the process. The dates for this year's symposium aren't known yet. (Note added later: March 21-23, 2007.) Critt Ohlemacher moved that we provide one-time funding and a certificate for the best physics-related project at the symposium. We will attempt to have someone from the Executive Committee there to judge, but if that's not possible, we will request that the organizers send us information about the winning project. Uwe Trittman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Wolf suggested that we send out invitations to prize winners to attend an OSAPS meeting for a presentation at the banquet. We would pay for dinner for them and their parents.

Perry Yaney asked whether we should expand our participation into district-level fairs by funding prizes and encouraging OSAPS members to people to serve as judges. There was a feeling that at the present time we don't want to dilute our effort. The question was raised as to whether we should include Michigan science fairs and symposia in the future.

The Website proposal was discussed next. Perry Yaney will contact Sabine Jeschonnek to get more information about what she has in mind, and we'll discuss this idea further at the Spring meeting.

Providing the CPEP posters was the next proposal discussed. It was pointed out that we don't get very many high school teachers attending our meetings except on Saturdays at joint meetings with AAPT sections. Given this, we could instead donate 6 sets of posters each year to give away at regional AAPT meetings; the posters would have a sticker stating that they were donated by OSAPS. It would be good if we had an OSAPS logo to be a tangible reminder of OSAPS in situations like this. Paul Wolf moved that we provide two sets of posters for each of the AAPT sections in our region (Ohio Section, Southern Ohio Section, and Michigan Section) to give away at their 2007 meetings. Uwe Trittman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Perry Yaney will put a list of the recipients and purpose of all the OSAPS donations (not including the monetary amounts) on the Website.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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