

## **Minutes of the Ohio-Region Section of the American Physical Society Executive Committee Meeting**

The Executive Committee of the Ohio-Region Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, 13 October 2011, in the Pine Shelf Room of the Pittenger Student Center at Ball State University. In attendance were:

Gordon Aubrecht, Laura Van Wormer, Jason Pinkney, David Weeks, Nicholas Pike, Mo Ahoujja, Roy Day, Jim Sullivan (guest), Bob Hengehold, Herbert Jaeger, Cornel Rablau, Perry Yaney, Paul Wolf

Jason Pinkney presided over the meeting, calling it to order at 10:00 am, and began with introductions.

### I. Business

A. Minutes approved as written.

B. Treasurer's report: Roy Day

We were charged BAPS page charges for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in two years. It turned out to be 100 free abstracts per year. Anything over that is \$25/abstract. We had 116 total abstracts from 2010, so they should have charged us \$400 total. This raises the issue of abstract charges. We currently charge \$10. The break even point is 167 which I don't think we've reached recently. Rounding down to \$9 to get it right doesn't make sense, so the recommendation is to keep the charge as is.

Question: When registration was clicked on, it went to a national site and once you said register, it went right to credit card – it didn't ask about banquet or abstract charges.

Thom: There were certainly some problems with national page. This seems to be the new model though it has been a rough transition so far. Don Wise is the person to talk to.

Roy: Who will the money go to, the local organizing committee? Thom: hope so! We got the check from OSAPS last week, but we haven't gotten anything from APS yet. His understanding was that OSAPS would get them.

Roy: In principle, abstract fees are collected by local organizers and are supposed to be treated separately, going straight to APS. So APS shouldn't send you abstract fees but should just keep them and they should show up in my account. The rest should go to you to cover registration.

Roy: Regarding meeting expenses, there has been some variation but the last 4 or 5 meetings were in the \$8-10,000 range. Meeting expenses to OSAPS include a \$3,000

advance, less anything returned, honoraria which is \$2,000 at most, and student travel grants, typically about \$700 per meeting. For the last 3 meetings, there has been a bit returned to OSAPS. It used to be that speaker honoraria was paid by the local meeting but for the last two meetings and going forward is paid by OSAPS.

Looking at the handouts:

BAPS page charges – first charge in 2 years this spring – the lighter bar is actual money collected.

Financial resources (2<sup>nd</sup> page) Most income arrives in Jan when get money from APS.

Has membership fallen? There was a slight change in how much money we got per member which might account for that. Also we are getting less interest since interest rates have dropped.

It has been hard to coordinate registration names with abstracts, so having them together will be helpful.

Gordon: for next meeting, should there be a choice to register locally or register online? Keep it national because it will get confusing otherwise. Locally you have to send a check, with national registration can use a credit card.

Gordon: I printed out the local form, OSU supposed sent a check directly to BSU department. So what happens if you want grant or department to pay directly? It didn't look like an option for purchase order or something like that.

Roy: a proposal – student travel grant applications. We collect student addresses and send the check to the student. That means the student has to pay out of pocket then get reimbursed, quite a few students are paid by department. I'd like to create an option that the department will pay for the student, and have the check go to department. This is easier because there are fewer checks; it is also easier because spring meeting checks are sent as they are leaving campus.

David: Only issue is if the student doesn't show up. Propose that we stop checking if students show up – it is the chair-elect's job. A better way is to let departments check.

#### C. Current Meeting Report: Thom Robertson

Welcome! Topic is Applied Physics – 5 plenary speakers, 29 oral presentations, 27 posters, 2 withdrawn; 75 persons preregistered from 7 states; More detailed information is on the handout.

#### D. Chair's report: Jason Pinkney

1. Boosting attendance: Can we get a member's discount if you have an affiliation with another group, such as AAS which can be very expensive? Can we get APS to grant the same discount – but APS would have to get \$\$ from other organization?

A question was raised regarding whether the registration fee is what is hindering attendance. Time was identified as more of a problem than money.

There was also discussion about requirements for attending a meeting, how joint meetings are handled and the new registration system. The national organization says that to attend a meeting, you are supposed to be a member. Joint meetings might be easier if they were within the AIP umbrella. Also our options are more limited now that the national office is handling registration – a change that comes at our request.

2. Grants for outreach: They are available not only for k-12 outreach but to the general public, up to \$10,000 for 18 months. The forms are at [www.aps.org/programs/outreach](http://www.aps.org/programs/outreach) and are due Jan. 6. Question: Do we allow APS to spam our entire membership about this opportunity?

A motion was made by Jason Pinkney to allow APS to inform our general membership. Paul Wolf seconds. The motion carried.

3. Meeting registration problems: Tell Thom Robertson or Jason Pinkney the names of anyone who tried to preregister but failed.

4. Student travel grants: I'll check for Linn Van Woerkom that the students are here. Let them know that checks will be cut in 2-4 weeks and that we need addresses for the checks to be sent to. In the past, David Weeks would email students to check the address.

After discussion about the requirements for awarding student travel grants and what the amount should be, consensus is that they should be for up to \$100 and that the students should have to present a paper. We also don't want to have to track their expenses. Roy Day volunteered to modify the current form.

#### E. Past Meeting Report: Roy Day

The Spring 2011 OSAPS meeting was at John Carroll University. We had 5 plenary speakers, 37 posters, 32 oral presentations. Klaus Fritsch received the Howard Maxwell Award at the banquet. There were 122 registrants with 96 people attending banquet; 66 were APS members.

Expenses: There was \$3,000 in seed money; one speaker was from a national lab so would not accept an honorarium. We were able to reimburse the VP's office and OSAPS so the net cost was \$7373.57. One speaker was already in town for another engagement

and didn't charge travel expenses, two drove which was less expensive so we had a total of \$690 in travel grants.

#### F. Next Meeting Report: Gordon Aubrecht

For the next meeting, we chose biophysics as the theme. It will be April 13-14, 2012 at The Ohio State University. We have a commitment from 1 invited speaker, but not yet from others. Biomathematics institute member might be good after dinner speaker.

There was a question as to whether it was bad form to invite people from your own institution. Yes, in part because you want to bring people in to show off your institution.

We will be in the Physics Research building, with the banquet in the atrium of that building. The lecture hall seats about 100 and we will have a place for video overflow if we get more.

#### G. Future Meetings

Spring 2012 OSU April 13-14 Biophysics

Fall 2012

Spring 2013: Ohio University, local contact Ken Hicks

Fall 2013 University of Cincinnati, local contact Joseph Scanio

2019 Kettering....maybe both!

It is getting very late for next fall – will need somebody with resources

Discussion regarding possible options for future meetings included Wittenberg, CWRU (last time in 2003), BGSU (though the two most active have retired), University of Toledo (Scott Lee has done it before and has been head of OSAPS), University of Akron hasn't held the meeting in a decade, Kent State University, Oakland University, Michigan State (hosted in 2002), University of Michigan hasn't shown much interest.

Cornel Rablau spoke with Wayne State, but needs to follow up with them.

Mo Ahoujja will contact Xavier University.

#### II. Standing Committee Reports

##### A. Membership Committee: Herbert Jaeger

The overall membership has dropped a little, but not much change. Last spring there was a large increase because Hyundeok did a great job boosting student membership.

For comparisons to other sections, we need to ask Jennifer Pirnat who supplies the data.

When renewing, topic groups and sections have to be dealt with separately. They are not automatic.

#### B. Honors and awards: Bob Hengehold

We had a long discussion at the last meeting, if you have further thoughts, send them to me. We will give the Fowler award to University of Akron's Ernst von Meerwall, a real contributor, he gives a paper at almost every meeting, is a fellow of the society. We selected him before the last meeting but he couldn't make it. We have a nominee for the Fowler award that we'll present at OSU meeting: Howard Jackson from University of Cincinnati, nominated by former students at Kettering University. He has been very involved and has made major contributions. He couldn't make it tonight. He will be the first honoree from the University of Cincinnati.

We continue to seek candidates for both awards. This is the first time we are giving the Fowler award since 2004. We clearly don't need to give the Fowler award on an annual basis but there clearly are physicists across Ohio and the adjoining states who are worthy of the award. I've become somewhat proactive since we haven't been getting nominations. On the other hand I don't want to be directing this selection but instead providing a nudge to specific individuals to nominate their colleagues. This will be the 11<sup>th</sup> time we've given the Fowler since 1985. The Maxwell award has been given 19 times, but that award was initiated before the 1980's. Considering the kind of physics that goes on in Ohio, others have deserved to receive the Fowler and it's a bit of a shame that we haven't recognized more Ohio Region physicists. We have put fellowship in APS as kind of an entry bar, though we could reconsider that if warranted. We clearly don't want to lower the criteria though. We want to keep it as an award that people feel proud to get and we feel proud to give.

Gordon Aubrecht expressed appreciation to Bob Hengehold for being awards chair for over 20 years.

#### C. Nomination Committee: David Weeks

The past chair typically does this. There are two openings, one for vice chair and also member at large. The nomination committee has 3 people on it; we need one more person. They can be from the executive committee. The third person is identified by APS. Ken Cole is the person contacted last time. In past they have been willing to accept a recommendation, but they picked someone who wasn't on my list. So I'm not sure how amenable they are to suggestions. Eric Herbst was appointed by APS, but we need a third.

Jason asked what the timeline is for getting candidates for election. January, so we need to get nomination committee formed now.

Mo Ahoujja agreed to be on nominating committee.

David handed out Attachment B, which is essentially from Fred Trexler on how to have good elections.

#### D. APS Councilors Report: Paul Wolf

We can always go to the web site, sign in and access minutes from meetings. This information is extracted from last meeting, in June.

The Strategic Plan needs to be seen, vetted and approved by units. It should be coming out in the next couple months. The Executive committee is meeting about now, so they'll be discussing it again.

Finances from APS –they are projecting a \$3 million shortfall in nonmember subscriptions, but overall publication revenue could be \$1 million less than expected.

When questioned about their total budget, Paul wasn't sure.

Did they talk about some way of dealing with digital revolution, subscriptions? Yes, but Paul doesn't remember specifics. The topic is a hot one in APS. They are trying to figure out how it will impact them because it is the major driver for their publication expenses. Their investments are doing quite well. It might impact contributions to units.

Gordon Aubrecht explained that someone sets a fixed number; it has changed slightly over the years, but it is generally fixed for a while. There's a lag time before we'd see more coming back.

Two firms were hired by the task force on American Innovation to poll the general public: while they value science, they don't understand how it relates to them. There is interest in getting the public engaged and understanding the value of research. They've talked to Neil Tyson who will be part of a media campaign aimed toward general public. This is not coming out of APS money – outside funding. They are also going to be looking for media savvy physicists to speak to the value of specific subdisciplines. I bring this up to sections because they have more opportunity to promote that kind of awareness.

Gordon: "Any sufficiently advanced technology cannot be distinguished from magic."  
Arthur C. Clarke

There are a couple of new programs – new topical group on the physics of climate; this has caused controversy in council because of the sensitive connections to policy and

politics. APS said that shouldn't concern us, we are interested in the science and have to get that right. There's a new exchange program in physics between US and Brazil, which includes faculty not just students. The other one is with India. Details are on their web site.

#### E. Web Master's Report: Perry Yaney

Electronic copies of all reports should go into the archives. Getting Treasurer's reports has been a problem. It's nice for keeping long term records. We have things back to 2003 but nothing internal. They have to do with planning meetings.

Perry started in 2003, and took a while to determine what should be in it. Currently everything is downloaded from the APS web site. Right now there are mostly links but the plan is to get the document so you don't need the link. That takes a lot of time and he's just started doing that. Old meeting records on APS web site are now missing and erratic. If you type OSS07, you can get spring meeting records. He also will grab meeting announcements from school web sites, if nothing sent out.

Have you scanned stuff in? No, not to this point. Gordon mentioned that there are new Xerox machines so you can scan and email as pdf. Neither Bob nor Laura has access to something like that.

### III. Old Business

#### Guide to Duties: David Weeks

David is still working on getting it into final form, and struggling with appointed committees and positions. The bylaws are copied. We have a nominating committee. We have a program committee!! But we aren't using it. Members are even specified. What is listed on web site doesn't completely agree with what is in bylaws. There are two different aspects to archivist and web master; should they really be combined? David will continue working on it, then send it out for feedback. Not sure what to do with the program committee.

In discussion, it was suggested that those duties were basically taken by "hints for hosts" and also taken by the vice chair and chair elect as part of learning the ropes. A suggestion was made to have the organizers of the previous 3 meetings automatically on the program committee so the next person knows there are 3 people they could call on. Having an ad hoc committee added to that of previous meeting organizer or two would be helpful. There is a danger of meetings becoming too specialized, so the program committee was to help that. They wouldn't control the topic but could advise.

David: I think they have to be members of the executive committee, in fact they are the vice chair and chair elect. For the archivist, I'll merge the two together.

It was noted that Perry Yaney is officially archivist, but he has started doing web duties.

#### IV. New business

##### A. State Science Day: Gordon Aubrecht

The last one was very successful, including a \$750 award from OSAPS. This year will be May 5, first Saturday in May. Invite anyone who wants to be a judge; it is fun and rewarding. Thanks for years of support! Please volunteer!

##### B. Tech Fest: Perry Yaney

The usual report is in the spring. This is our 10<sup>th</sup> year and money is coming in! It is very encouraging. Imagine corralling 70 some organizations and 15 presenters all on one weekend (President's Day weekend). It depends on groups like this, but it has worked. OSAPS is part of a distinguished group of supporters, so thanks!

Jason Pinkney wondered about public outreach in the past. How does OSAPS do public outreach? If we have an evening show, do we invite people? Perry: Most meetings are open to the public. Some special after dinner events, such as with the person acting as Marie Curie, were open to public. Usually every meeting has a talk that is open to the public, like an after banquet talk. They are often in a separate location so people who aren't part of meeting can attend. We would like to see schools get more involved in outreach in their community. Dayton has a science festival. We are trying to make people aware of contributions of scientists and engineers in our everyday life. Just take the cell phone – so many areas go into the parts of it.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm.