

# **Minutes of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society - (unapproved)**

## **Executive Committee**

**University of Akron, 16 October 1998**

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, October 16, 1998, in room 302 of the Goodyear Polymer Science Center on the University of Akron campus. The meeting was called to order by Chair Gordon Aubrecht at 10:00 a.m. Gordon opened the meeting by sharing photos taken at previous meetings of the Ohio Section. He plans to get the photos on disk so they can be added to the Web site. In attendance were Gordon Aubrecht, Larry Becker, Kim Coplin, Bruce Craver, Greg Hassold, Bob Hengehold, Peter Henriksen, Tom Greenslade, Graciela Lacueva, Scott Lee, Mike Ma, Barrie Ripin, Roger Rollins, Bahram Roughani, Don Schuele, Jim Sullivan, and Brad Trees.

### **1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 1, 1998.**

Larry Becker moved that the minutes of the Spring 1998 meeting of the Executive Committee of OS/APS be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Graciela Lacueva and unanimously approved.

### **2. Local Chair's Report, Fall 1998 - Peter Henriksen**

Peter reported that they had over 100 preregistrations for the meeting. He noted they were a little disappointed in the attendance. There are 50 contributed papers and 19 posters. Peter mentioned that only one undergraduate met the deadline for the poster competition, so all the posters were entered into the competition and the prize money was increased. The starting time for the Friday afternoon session was moved to 1:30 to accommodate a panel discussion headed by Katharine Gebbie. It was also noted that all the invited speakers for the meeting are women. Peter added that the funds raised for the meeting will cover the awards and the social hour. There will be an open house and free lunch following the Saturday morning sessions.

Before continuing with the meeting agenda, Gordon asked for introductions. Guests at the meeting were Barrie Ripin from the national APS office and Tom Greenslade from Kenyon College.

### **3. Secretary's Report - Kim Coplin**

Bruce said the dates for the Kettering meeting (Spring 1999) had been approved by the national office.

### **4. Treasurer's Report - Roger Rollins**

The treasurer's report was distributed and discussed. Roger introduced the Brad Trees who is the new OS/APS Associate Treasurer.

### **5. Final Chair's Report, Spring 1998**

The final report for the Ball State University Spring 1998 meeting was distributed by Gordon.

### **6. Local Chair's Report, Spring 1999 - Bahram Roughani and Greg Hassold**

The meeting report was distributed. The meeting will be held April 30 - May 1, 1999 and the theme of the meeting is "Industrial and Applied Physics". The speakers have been determined and are listed on the meeting schedule. Bahram noted that the travel and honoraria needs should be modest since all speakers are from industry or national labs except one from the APS Centennial list. Bahram and Greg asked how to obtain the money from APS that has been designated for section Centennial events. Barrie Ripin responded that OS/APS should expect \$1000 - \$2000 to help celebrate the Centennial. The meeting organizers have received \$500 from Ford and they will ask other companies for support as well. The university has committed to support for mailings. Bahram asked how they should come up with a mailing list for Michigan. It was noted that the OS/APS chair can request a mailing list for certain zip code regions from the national APS and that for this meeting the areas of interest are Michigan, Ohio, Northern Indiana, and Western Ontario. Bahram should get a list of zip codes to Gordon who will request a mailing list from APS. Bahram also asked about getting funds in advance. Roger responded they can get up to \$3000 in advance. The Executive Committee encouraged Bahram and Greg to look at Hints for Hosts for other relevant information. The meeting organizers plan to get a mailing list from the Michigan State University Center for Materials Research. Scott suggested they should also contact the University of Windsor, and Bob suggested they strongly encourage local support as well. Roger encouraged the meeting chairs to get the mailings ready early and use bulk mail. Barrie Ripin also suggested using bulk email. To do this, a request from the OS/APS chair, secretary, or treasurer needs to be made to Barrie or Units@aps.org. The OS/APS is allowed 2 bulk emails per year at no charge. The committee agreed to use one of these bulk emails for the Kettering meeting.

Peter commented that the local chairs for the Akron meeting had received an email yesterday from people needing verification that they were attending a meeting so they could enter the country. It was noted that a letter on university stationery would be sufficient.

It was agreed that as soon as local chairs for a meeting are identified they should be sent a copy of Hints for Hosts. Mike Ma from Cincinnati noted he has a copy.

### **7. Local Chair's Report, Fall 1999 - Bob Hengehold**

The meeting, which is being jointly organized by AFIT and WSU, will be held Oct. 8 - 9, 1999 at WSU assuming date confirmation by the national office. Bob noted they will zero in on the Centennial and will try to get speakers from the Centennial list. The exact title has not been agreed on, but the theme will be the History and Future of Physics. Bob will communicate with Bahram and Greg about the OS/APS Centennial funding. Bob commented that they would like suggestions for a speaker who could talk on the History of Physics in Ohio. Suggestions included Tom Greenslade who is knowledgeable on the history of physics teaching in Ohio and Walter Wada who could speak on history of physics at Ohio State. Any other suggestions should be forwarded to Bob.

#### **8. Local Chair's Report, Spring 2000 - Michael Ma, Jim Sullivan**

The Spring 2000 meeting will be held at the University of Cincinnati. Mike and Jim asked about dates, suggesting May 5-6 or the weekend before. Bruce noted that the spring meeting is usually earlier to allow students at semester schools to attend. Barrie Ripin confirmed that the only possible meeting conflict is the April APS meeting which will be in California Apr. 29 - May 1. In terms of the theme, Mike and Jim said their original theme conflicted with the Akron meeting so they are back to the drawing board. Bob mentioned that past themes should be outlined in the Hints for Hosts. Mike asked about funding. The response was that OS/APS will subsidize \$3000 and that the meeting registration fee is \$30. The banquet should pay for itself. Mike and Jim mentioned that their building at Cincinnati is undergoing renovation and they are worried about space problems. It was noted it is OK to have the meeting at different places Friday and Saturday. There was a question about the mailings. The host handles all mailings with mailing labels provided by the Ohio Section. Bob said they will keep the Cincinnati chairs informed of how they handle mailings for the AFIT/WSU meeting. Larry commented that getting the mailing list can be complicated. The local list comes from the membership chair, but to expand the list it takes coordination with the chair of the Executive Committee to get labels from APS. In terms of lodging, the committee noted it is nice to have range of prices for lodging options.

#### **9. Local Chair's Report, Fall 2000 - Scott Lee**

The Fall 2000 meeting will be held at the University of Toledo. The local chair will be Al Compaan and the theme will be "Photovoltaics". Scott will be assisting Al since Scott has hosted previous meetings.

#### **10. Local Chair's Report, Spring 2001 - Kent State University**

The Physics Department at Kent State has agreed to host the meeting, but the Executive Committee has received no additional information from them. Gordon will call the department chair.

#### **11. Local Chair's Report, Fall 2001 - Kim Coplin**

The Fall 2001 meeting will be hosted by Denison University.

## **12. Local Chair's Report, Fall 2002 - The Ohio State University**

Gordon commented that the new physics building at Ohio State is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2002 and that he will be in contact with the chair of the OSU physics department.

## **13. Other Future Meetings**

It was noted that a host for the Spring 2002 meeting is still needed. One possibility is Youngstown State University.

## **14. Centennial Exhibit (progress report) - Bob Hengehold**

This discussion was moved to later in the meeting.

## **15. Membership Committee - Graciela Lacueva, Larry Becker**

The current membership is 1128 which is down from 1173 that was reported at the last meeting. Graciela noted that 43 of the members are from foreign countries (including Canada). The local list is currently at 660 and Graciela asked if that number was too large. She noted that there is a policy to trim students on the local list, but asked if there should be a general policy to trim the list. Gordon responded affirmatively. Barrie Ripin suggested that the membership person at APS should work with the local list to solicit for OS/APS and APS membership. It was mentioned that there should be a notice in the Kettering meeting announcement encouraging APS membership and free OS/APS membership. As part of the Centennial celebration, there are membership price breaks - dues won't be increased and there is a discount on life membership. It was also noted that undergraduates get the first year of APS membership free and that the fee is only \$25 per year after that. The undergraduate membership also includes Society of Physics Students membership.

Larry Becker moved that:

The membership committee should strike the names of people who have not come to a OS/APS meeting in three years or more from the local mailing list.

Greg Hassold seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

## **16. APS Council Report - Perry Yaney (report conveyed in his absence)**

Barrie Ripin commented that nothing "bad" was done to the sections at this meeting. A new section, the Northwest Section, was approved. The first meeting of this section will be in Vancouver, and the section will make a concentrated effort to include Canadians. Barrie noted that there were some concerns from the Canadian Physical Society about this policy. Bob asked if all states are covered by a section. Barrie responded that there are still significant areas not covered. There is the possibility of a group based in the

Midwest that would include Illinois. He noted that the Ohio Section was the first to affiliate with APS.

### **15. Honors and Awards - Bob Hengenold**

There will be no awards presented at this meeting. Bob is hesitant to present at award at the Kettering meeting since there may not be as much section attendance. He plans to present several awards at the Dayton meeting since this meeting is in a central location and will have the Centennial emphasis.

Bob commented that he is currently seeking nominations for awards and that he is also looking for information on the history of the section. He believes that there is a box of OS/APS "stuff" that would help fill in holes in the section history. This box might be at Denison or Scott commented it may be at Wittenberg. Barrie Ripin noted that there should be a record of the Ohio Section becoming official in the APS Council minutes. Bob will email Barrie to get a copy of these minutes.

Gordon noted that if anyone is interested in being nominated by OS/APS for APS committees they need to get the required information (including bio information) to the chair. This process currently happens in the summer. There was a question about what being on a committee entails. Gordon noted that he would like to centralize the nomination process by having the Honors/Awards committee collect information on nominees. He would like to include announcements in mailings to invite interested people to submit their names and information to the Honors/Awards Committee. It was asked if the Ohio Section can suggest names for APS Fellows. Barrie Ripin responded that sections don't have slots for Fellows, but that section members can be proactive in getting people from the section nominated by appropriate technical units, forums, etc. Gordon suggested that the Honors/Awards committee could be proactive in suggesting potential APS Fellows. Barrie pointed out that some groups (women, minorities, small college faculty) are underrepresented as APS Fellows, and he encouraged nominations from these groups.

### **18. Elections Ad Hoc Committee - Scott Lee**

The members of this committee are Roger, Scott, Perry and Larry. The committee is responding to a request from the national office that we reexamine the way the OS/APS holds elections. The current election mechanism is outlined in the Section Bylaws Article IV Section III. The current procedure is that the elections are conducted by ballot at the spring meeting. Scott had emailed Judy Franz to get clarification on the concerns of the national office. His question was redirected to Amy Holsted. The national office is concerned that the election is held at the spring meeting, but almost every other section holds elections by mail ballot. The national office wants us to be as inclusive as possible. In response to a question about voter response, it was noted that voter response by mail is always <25%, often less than 10%. In comparison, our current method samples about 10% of the section membership (total membership ~1100 with ~100 at the spring

meeting). Scott noted that the national office is not forcing us to make changes; they are asking us to reexamine our policy.

Three possible elections scenarios were proposed.

1) Maintain the status quo

2) Switch to an email ballot with a regular mail ballot for those members without email. It was noted that 75 - 80% of current APS members have email. Barrie commented that APS would handle the email and regular mailing but at cost to OS/APS. It was noted that we can do as many emailings to Ohio Section APS members as we want, the special 2 emails are to APS members who are not in our section. Barrie also noted that the response rate for electronic balloting is twice the paper ballot response rate.

3) Switch to a system that would include a ballot in the spring meeting mailing. This would be a page that would be simple to return to someone for counting. Mike Ma commented that if bulk mail were used there could be problems meeting deadlines.

Barrie said that email/special mailings would be more timely, but it was also noted that this would be an extra expense for the section. Adding a page to the bulk mail spring meeting announcement would also be an added cost. Larry questioned where the email ballots would be sent. The response was that they would usually go to the section secretary, however, for OS/APS it would be logical for ballots to go to the nominating committee chair. Gordon asked if the Ad Hoc Election Committee had a recommendation. Scott responded no. There was a discussion about what would have to be done to the section bylaws if there was a change in the election procedure. Barrie commented that the exact details would not have to go in the bylaws. It was commented that 2 out of 32 units hold elections using the OS/APS current method.

Gordon asked if national APS is looking for more than one nominee for each position and commented he isn't sure he wants it to go that way. It is often hard to find nominees and if there is more than one, someone will lose. Bob asked if we are under pressure to make change, and Scott responded that there is no direct pressure now but that could change in the future. Gordon said the Executive Committee could make a change now, although he feels this would be premature. Other options would be to discuss this issue at the banquet and/or send out an email to poll the section membership. Roger asked what we have to do to change the bylaws. The committee was not sure, however it should be specified in the bylaws. It was thought that 2/3 of the voting members have to be in favor of the change. The committee decided to table this issue until the next meeting. In the meantime, Gordon authorized Scott to circulate the 3 election suggestions to the email list of members. Scott is to ask for suggestions and replies are to be directed to Scott.

As a side note, Barrie noted that APS is sponsoring travel grants for students to go to the Centennial meeting. There is \$80,000 earmarked for this. The award is for \$250 per student which must be matched by the student's department. The student does not have to be presenting, but there will be at least 2 SPS sessions at the meeting.

#### **14. Centennial Exhibit - Bob Hengehold**

Bob announced that the section display at the Centennial meeting will be 20 ft long with 2 side panels. The display will be located next to the lounge area. They believe the panels will hold 8 sets of prints provided by Tom Greenslade, a map of the universities, and a history of the Ohio Section. The map display will include a historical map of the universities at 1850 and a map showing all physics departments today. Any items for the Ohio Section history should be forwarded to Bob. Tom Greenslade commented that his current photos do not include any apparatus from Ohio University, however, there are apparatus photos from 8 schools. Bob noted that he thinks the photos will intrigue many people. Tom's work has been supported by the Kenyon College physics endowment.

Another part of the display is the Case Western Michelson-Morley model. Bob and Don need to discuss how this will be boxed and sent to APS. Bob noted there may be some problems with unions in terms of shipping and unloading. Bob also said lighting is another issue. It can be rented, but it may be cheaper to buy lighting. Bob commented that Perry deserves a "pat on the back" for his work and Bob and Scott commended Tom Greenslade for the photos.

#### **19. Old Business**

There was no old business.

#### **20. New Business**

George Miner asked that information about upcoming Chautauqua courses be circulated at the registration desk.

#### **21. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kimberly A. Coplin