

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

Executive Committee

University of Cincinnati, 5 May 2000

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, May 5, 2000 in the President's Dining Room in the Tangeman University Center on the University of Cincinnati campus. The meeting was called to order by Chair Ron Winters at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Gordon Aubrecht, Gust Bambakidis, Kim Coplin, Bruce Craver, Bob Hengehold, Scott Lee, Mike Ma, Steve Pinsky, Roger Rollins, Bahram Roughani, Jim Sullivan, Fred Thomas, Greg Townsend, Brad Trees, Ron Winters, and Perry Yaney.

1. Ron began the meeting by having the attendees introduce themselves.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Fall Meeting of 1999 meeting.

Bob noted a correction to the Fall 1999 minutes: The contribution from Wright State should be \$1000 not \$1500. With this correction, the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Local Chair's Report, Spring 2000 – Mike Ma and Jim Sullivan

Mike commented they had decided on a cash bar for the reception and that they should be OK financially for the meeting. Mike brought up several issues relevant to those hosting future meetings. He noted mailings are very expensive and encouraged meeting hosts to use electronic mailings as much as possible. He also said that APS was very rigid to work with in terms of deadlines. He suggested that APS should just link to the local meeting Web site noting that APS would not make changes once the information was posted on their Web site. He also felt that APS abstract deadline of March 31st was too early which caused a lot of problems for late abstracts noting that most people don't submit more than one month in advance for the OS/APS meetings. Bob noted they had similar problems and managed to get the late abstracts published. Bahram reported they learned from Vinaya that a later abstract deadline is easier for the fall meeting. The national meetings in the spring make spring deadlines more rigid. Perry said it would be convenient for each meeting to have a local Web site and he asked about doing our own abstract submission. Steve Pinsky from OSU said they had set up their own Web site for abstract submission, fee payment for the Division of Particles and Fields meetings that Ohio State is hosting. They plan to do the same for the OS/APS 2002 meeting at OSU and are willing to share what they have done in terms of a Web site. Roger commented that when APS publishes the abstracts they use the electronic submissions as a starting point. Gordon said we should be able to get our Web page with abstracts submitted to APS for

publication. It was agreed that the APS deadline is too stringent, that an APS link to the local Web site is needed, and that it would be very valuable to have our own abstract submission. Bahram said we should talk to other units to see if they're having similar problems. Perry will contact other sections. Bahram will contact APS to determine if we can collect the abstracts electronically.

Mike also mentioned that poster session asking if it was normal to have only a few submissions (he noted they had only 3 from outside UC). It appears this is an anomaly: WSU had 15 posters, Akron 25, and Kettering 15). Mike noted they had 110 registered for the meeting with 40 oral contributions and 10 posters. A good incentive for posters might be student prizes – this worked well at the Akron meeting. Jim Sullivan from SOS/AAPT thanked Mike for his coordination of the meeting. He reported to the Executive Committee that it became difficult to schedule rooms and Mike did a good job finding space for the meeting. Jim commented that one of the five contributed paper sessions is "Physics Education" and that AAPT will hold a "How I do It" Session after lunch Saturday. Ron also thanked Mike and noted that UC had provided a superb Web site for the meeting; unfortunately APS wouldn't provide a link on their site.

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

Bruce announced that the dates for the Toledo meeting are now on the APS meeting calendar.

5. Treasurer's Report - Roger Rollins and Brad Trees

The treasurer's report was distributed and discussed. It was reported that the local account at OU had been closed. All financial requests now go through Brad to Michael Stevens at APS. It was also noted that a previous question regarding charges for abstract publication had been resolved. APS has charged OS/APS in arrears the following amounts: \$450 for Akron meeting, \$300 for Kettering meeting and \$1650 for the Wright State meeting. These amounts correspond to \$150 per page. It was noted that there were 38 abstracts published for the Wright State meeting. Each was charged \$40 amounting to \$1520; however, the APS charge was \$1650 due to the publication of invited talk abstracts which are sometimes long. For the Kettering meeting OS/APS was charged \$300 but \$600 was brought in from abstract fees. Roger and Brad reported the final settlement from the Kettering meeting is now in – the Kettering meeting was done at no cost to the Ohio Section. Brad also distributed dues income and membership data. He said the membership number used by national APS is that as of January 1. We receive dues income in November.

6. Final Chair's Report, Fall 1999 –deferred until later in the meeting

7. Forthcoming Meetings Reports:

Fall 2000 – University of Toledo – Scott Lee

Scott reported that Al Compaan was attending graduation at the university. The dates requested for the meeting are October 13 – 14. The topic is Photovoltaics, all invited speakers have been confirmed, and rooms have been reserved. There are still deciding on an after dinner speaker, and negotiations for the banquet are underway. The banquet may be at the Toledo Museum of Art. The deadline from national APS to get information posted on the Web is May 15. As far as mailings, it was suggested that one be done first class and one bulk rate. Mailing cost can be part of the \$3000 from OS/APS. Bob suggested the first mailing go out no later than mid-July, and Bahram said that bulk mailing for the Kettering meeting took about 2 weeks for delivery. Bob commented that raising meeting registration fees has really helped offset meeting expenses. The national mailing list should be requested from APS though the membership chair. The OS/APS local mailing list comes from the OS/APS membership chair. Greg Townsend of OS/AAPT asked how they fit in with this meeting. Scott noted that Al Compaan had talked with Fred Graham of OS/AAPT and Ron noted that AAPT should be a full partner. This should be two meetings in one.

Spring 2001, Kent State University –

Ron reported that Dave Allender hasn't responded to his messages; however, Ron, Gordon, and Scott all confirmed that KSU is committed to hosting the meeting.

Fall 2001, Denison University -

Spring 2002, Youngstown State University

The topic for this meeting will be "photon induced processes"

Fall 2002, Ohio State University – Steve Pinsky

Steve reported the topic of this meeting will be "String Theory" and it will highlight the new string theory group at OSU. The new building at OSU has been delayed so the meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn on Lane Avenue. It will be a joint meeting and OSU will commit financially. Steve also informed the Executive Committee that Brian Green will be giving a public lecture at Mershon Auditorium the week of August 9-12.

Spring 2003 – Ohio University

Fall 2003 – Cleveland State University

Perry mentioned that Beverly Berger from Oakland University in Rochester, MI had contacted him to report that they are very interested in hosting a future meeting.

8. Nominations Committee Report - Gordon Aubrecht

Gordon reported that the nominating committee members include Len Brillson (national rep), Dan Gibson, and Peter Henrickson. The 2000-2001 OS/APS officers list was also distributed. Ron thanked Gordon for his diligence in finding people to serve.

9. Honors and Awards Committee Report - Bob Hengehold

Bob announced that the Maxwell Award would be awarded to Paul Hagelberg at the banquet. He also commented that he had received no input after posting awards information on the Web page. He plans to add more background and award history on the Web page. It was suggested that he look into listing APS Fellows from Ohio and it was noted that Roger and Ron are APS Fellows.

10. Unit Convocation Report – Bahram Roughani

Bahram distributed a copy of his report on the January Unit Convocation and a list of APS contacts. He noted that currently the Ohio Section membership stands at 2.65% of the APS membership (1130 members) and that 88% of the Ohio Section members have email. He informed the Executive Committee that APS is setting up a forwarding email system. He said the primary focus of the Unit Convocation was science advocacy. APS is encouraging different division of the organization to become active in this area. In response to this, Bahram suggested having a Unit Convocation meeting in Washington, perhaps during the April meeting, to allow APS members access to congressional representatives. Gordon said Bahram might contact other section chairs to gather support for this idea.

Bahram mentioned also that there is now no limit on the number of emails that OS can send to section members. As far as electronic balloting, the plan (not approved yet) is to wait 4 days for a response after the ballot has been sent, then a paper ballot will be sent. It was noted that 4 days seems to be too short a time for response. Gordon commented that this method discussed at the Unit Convocation seems different from what APS had proposed earlier.

APS is also concerned that there is a disconnection between physicists in academia and industry. They are also interested in physics that can be communicated to the public: for example, at the University of Nebraska, a physics professor is featured in a halftime program. Scientists are also encouraged to communicate against pseudoscience. Gordon suggested that the Ohio Section work with other local science organizations to work against those who undermine the scientific method. This discussion was deferred to new business. Bahram also reported that starting in 2001 journal prices will be tiered – the breakdown will be small schools, PhD granting institutions, and research organizations.

Bahram also mentioned several ideas from other sections. The New York Section has outreach on their Web page. Other sections have a Teachers' Day during meeting, while another idea is section grants for student research. Bahram also said it is important that all contracts for local meetings are signed by APS. He also passed on the physics Web page

for the public; www.thephysicspage.com, and the Web page for "hot" physics stories; www.hotphysics@aps.org.

11. Membership Committee Report

Kim announced the membership numbers that Graciela had forwarded. The current number of OS/APS members is 1055 which is down from 1112 on 6/10/99.

6. Final Chair's Report, Fall 1999 – Gust Bambakidis and Bob Hengehold

The meeting report was distributed. The total attendance was 210. It was noted that \$1500 was supposed to come from national APS for this meeting. It has not yet been received; however, Bob noted they will only need \$958. The Executive Committee agreed that Bob should ask for this much. A revised meeting report will include a correction to the abstract amount.

12. APS Council Report - Perry Yaney

The Council voted for two section voting representatives at its spring meeting. It was suggested that any unit having more than 3% membership be invited to send a representative to the Council meeting with expenses paid by APS. Judy Franz has encouraged the OS/APS to think in terms of a new name or expansion to increase our membership numbers. Gordon suggested perhaps we need an advisory committee to our membership committee while Perry added that our membership committee needs to take on a new role and be proactive not statistical.

At the fall Council meeting, the section representatives were again discussed. Terms are 4 years; after the first year, the councilor will serve a 3 year committee appointment. The first councilors will come from the New England and Southeast sections. After that the rotation will be New York, Ohio, Texas, Four Corners, and Northwest. Perry added that this rotation is subject to change. New sections (e.g. California) may be added soon. The importance of all sections having representation at the Council meeting was again discussed. A motion was also made to allow the person who will be the next section councilor to go to meetings at APS expense which would make the term five years instead of 4 years.

Perry also reported there is an obvious effort by APS to become more active in the public domain. He proposed the Ohio Section find people to work in these capacities; e.g. retired physicists. Mike Lubbell and Bob Park, who both serve on APS Council, know politics and the Washington scene. In the future, Perry may propose a program to APS to select and train people to become an interface between physics and the local domain. Ron suggested Perry and Gordon work on wording for this proposal. Ron also voiced his appreciation for Perry's work noting that serving on APS Council is hard work. Bahram also suggested a possible speaker in the area of science advocacy (e.g. Bob Park) for a future OS/APS meeting.

13. Other New Business

After a break for lunch the Committee returned to discuss two items of other new business: pseudoscience and membership.

Gordon Aubrecht moved that:

The chair of the OS/APS in conjunction with APS be authorized to contact leaders of science organizations in Ohio to try to develop a common strategy to confront ideas presented as science that do not legitimately fall in the domain of science.

Perry Yaney seconded this motion and he encouraged us to make use of APS' knowledge in this area.

Gordon also suggested that the Ohio Section designate a contact person on this issue, someone who will work with the legislature. Bob added it would be helpful to have someone from national attend one of our meetings to discuss this issue. Bruce emphasized that we should include organizations from other sciences outside physics and he agreed that we should use the resources of national APS. Ron suggested that a resource database of scientists willing to publicly take a stand on issues in their areas of expertise would be helpful to journalists. Bahram recommended that we make use of our Web page. Perry encouraged us to be careful of legality issues. Ron voiced a concern that we need to be very careful to note that we are not out to debunk people's beliefs but we are out to confront people who present things as science that are not science. He added that we much make a distinction for people in language that they can understand about what is science and what is not science. Gordon suggested that representatives from interested organizations get together to develop a strategy.

A straw vote was taken and indicated that the Executive Committee was in support of Gordon's motion. Ron suggested that Bahram appoint people to help in this area – perhaps to serve as a steering committee.

The motion was then passed unanimously by the Executive Committee.

Gordon voiced his hope that the Ohio Section will agree to take positions on legislation before the Ohio House. Bahram added that we can use this issue to get some attention from larger universities. Perry suggested that we invite all members to inform the committee when a local issue comes up.

The other new business issue was section membership. Gordon suggested that the chair appoint an advisory committee to try to create ways of involving members and ways of bringing new members into the section. He mentioned four concerns. 1. Membership numbers are declining. 2. Larger universities need to be more involved. 3. Small schools need to know the Ohio Section is welcoming. 4. People on the old "boundaries" need to be included. Gordon has a couple people at larger universities who may be willing to serve on this committee. Perry added that this membership battle is being fought

throughout APS. We need to sell the value of the organization. Perry suggested to Council that an "Industrial Membership" be created. It was agreed that the Ohio Section needs to first go after current APS members to become Ohio Section members. Roger said we need to now try to get these people to check off the Ohio Section box on their APS membership application. He added we should send a simple email asking to support the OS/APS (for free) even if they can't be active in the section. Ron voiced a concern that part of the problem is the name of the section. The email should make it clear who is included in the Ohio Section. It was agreed that Roger and Ron would write and send this email. Gordon and Bahram will work on a letter that can be sent separate from registration to those in areas surrounding local meetings with Ohio Section information. Roger also suggested an email from someone local can encourage colleagues to join the section. Perry said we consider a name change, for example, the "Midwest Section". Bob noted that none of the sections are in great shape. Perry will find out what is involved in a name change.

14. Election Procedure – Gordon Aubrecht

Gordon reported that there were few mail/email responses to the suggested change in the by-laws. This will be presented at the banquet for a vote.

15. Henley Report - Perry Yaney

Perry noted an attempt to get four voting section councilors was voted down.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly A. Coplin