

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

**Executive Committee**

**Youngstown State University, 12 April 2002**

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, April 12, 2002 in room 2400 of the Engineering Science Building at Youngstown State University. The meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Brown at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Robert Brown, Kim Coplin, Bruce Craver, Mike Crescimanno, Klaus Fritsch, Bob B. Hengehold, Graciela Lacueva, Stephen Pinsky, Roger Rollins, Bahram Roughani, Brad Trees, Fred Trexler, and Paul Wolf.

**1. Chairman Bob B. welcomed everyone to the meeting.**

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Fall 2001 Meeting**

The minutes of the Fall 2001 Executive Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

**3. Local Chairs' Report – Mike Crescimanno**

The meeting topic is “Photon Induced Processes”. Mike distributed the report and noted that there were approximately 100 registrations for the meeting with approximately half of those registered being students. The YSU Physics Department contributed \$600-\$700 for the meeting and local companies also provided financial support. It was necessary to pay for travel for only one invited speaker; the others were local, military, or paid for by the Division of Laser Science. Mike noted that during the social hour prior to the banquet, music would be provided by a string quartet and a hologram display would be available for viewing in the art museum. Due to the high number of student attendees, Mike had a YSU physics major agree to be in charge of student activities after the banquet. Mike also noted that meeting finances will be affected due to the dinner subsidy for students.

**4. Secretary's Report - Kim Coplin, Bruce Craver**

Bruce reported that the OSU meeting dates were approved and on the APS calendar. He is waiting for dates for the Spring 2003 meeting. Bob B. asked for guidelines for meeting dates that he can report to the organizers at MSU. Fall meetings are usually held in mid-October, while spring meetings are typically mid-April. It is important to avoid conflicts with major APS meetings. It is preferable to have meeting dates determined a year in advance, although that hasn't been the pattern lately. Bruce noted that meeting dates no longer have to be formally approved by the APS Executive Committee.

**5. Treasurer's Report - Brad Trees, Klaus Fritsch**

The treasurer's report was distributed and discussed. Brad and Klaus noted that the section is in good shape financially. A balance of \$2642 from the 2001 Fall meeting will be returned to OS/APS from OWU. The advance from OS/APS for the 2001 Fall meeting was \$6000 (the normal amount per meeting is \$3000). The section received \$4528 in dues income in November. This translates into 1132 section members (\$4 dues per member). It was reported that page charges have increased from \$150 to \$160 per page and that this might affect our abstract publication costs. We currently charge \$40 to publish an abstract. For the fall meeting we received \$1240 in abstract fees while the publication cost was \$1360. Bob H. suggested that we monitor this, but not make any changes at this time. Roger reminded the committee that the interest income for the section is approximately \$2000/year.

#### **6. Fall 2001 Local Chairs' Final Report – Brad Trees**

The final report for the 2001 Columbus State Fall meeting was distributed by Brad. One hundred seven people attended the meeting with 74 attending the banquet at which two awards were given. There were 33 oral presentations and 18 posters. Brad noted they had to pay travel for only one speaker. The banquet was the biggest expense. Bob B. noted that Gordon had sent letters of acknowledgement and thanks to the appropriate meeting organizers and their college administrators at CSCC and OWU.

#### **7. Spring 2001 Kent State Addendum/Letters – Robert Brown for S. Kumar**

Bob B. will send the addendum to the KSU meeting report to Roger for posting on the OS/APS Web site. Bob B. also noted that he had sent letters of acknowledgement and thanks to the appropriate meeting organizers and administrators at KSU. The committee agreed that the Executive Committee Chair should routinely send letters acknowledging financial support and the work of the local chairs after a meeting is completed. A brief discussion of whether various Executive Committee responsibilities are documented followed. Kim will forward what Barbara Andereck had previously prepared on this issue to Bob B..

#### **8. OS/AAPT Coordinated Meetings – Robert Brown/Graciela Lacueva for Jim Sullivan**

Copies of the OS/AAPT Spring meeting agenda and the revised Spring OS/APS announcement sent to AAPT members were distributed. Bob B. emphasized it is important for the Ohio Section to be aware of issues important to local AAPT members and to involve AAPT as much as possible in OS/APS meetings. Bob B. attended the OS/AAPT spring meeting to try to drum up support for the spring Ohio Section meeting. Bob B. remarked that in general AAPT will not be doing joint meetings with the OS/AAPT, but joint meetings will still happen from time to time. Good communication between the local sections of AAPT and the OS/APS is crucial and this communication needs to be structured and regular. Bob B. suggested that one of the duties of the Executive Committee Chair is to be aware of AAPT issues and events. He also stressed the importance of being sensitive to AAPT and talking to them every time

we are organizing a meeting. This suggestion should be documented in the “Hints for Hosts”. Paul commented that the Texas APS section, which also holds 2 meetings per year, has one of those annual meetings organized by an AAPT section. Graciela commented that AAPT members might feel used since OS/APS members typically don’t attend Saturday afternoon AAPT sessions. It was suggested that APS and AAPT sessions should be well integrated.

## **9. Forthcoming Meetings Reports**

### Fall 2002 - The Ohio State University - Steve Pinsky

This will be a joint meeting with both Ohio sections of AAPT. The meeting will run all day on Saturday and will also be integrated with the annual Physics Department Open House which typically attracts 200 people. A traditional part of this open house is a “cool demos” show which will be part of the OS/APS meeting. Many research labs will be open after the demonstration show for tours as part of the open house and meeting. A pizza lunch will be provided Saturday for open house and meeting attendees.

The theme of the meeting is the “Fundamental Structure of Matter” with string theory groups from throughout the Midwest invited to participate. The banquet will be held at the Holiday Inn on Lane Avenue. Steve also noted that the meeting Web page is up. The meeting budget is a little complicated since so many groups are involved. The meeting organizers will use the \$3000 from the Ohio Section and they expect approximately \$8000 from the university in additional support.

Bob B. asked about the capacity of the lecture hall noting that a large number of people will want to attend the demo show. Steve noted this and also remarked that the Friday sessions will be held at the Holiday Inn. Steve also asked for feedback on scheduling a poster session, noting he had not included one in his current planning. A discussion of the merit of poster sessions followed with the main points being that poster sessions provide opportunities for students to practice a presentation but that it is also important for students to have the experience of giving a talk in front of an audience. The conclusion was that a poster session should be scheduled during the social hour. Steve remarked that the Saturday meeting schedule includes 3 main events (2 plenary talks and the demo show) followed by parallel sessions in the afternoon. Bahram noted that any departures from the traditional OS/APS meeting schedule should be communicated well in advance to meeting attendees. Paul commented that moving one of the plenary talks to early afternoon might prevent people from leaving the meeting after the morning sessions.

### Spring 2003 – Michigan State University

Bob B. reminded the committee that MSU is a “test” site as we assess the possibility of a joint Ohio-Michigan section. Wolfgang Bauer from MSU will attend the fall Executive Committee meeting. Bruce noted we need meeting dates from MSU soon.

### Fall 2003 – Case Western Reserve University – Robert Brown

The meeting topic will be “Physicists Get Down to Business”. Bob B. also reported that he had explored the possibility of a meeting at NASA-Glenn. This is not practical since NASA would need a list of meeting attendees in advance. However, NASA Glenn might co-host the CWRU meeting.

Spring 2004 – Ohio University – Roger Rollins/Louis Wright

Possible topics are Astrophysics or Nanoscience. The new building at OU is still scheduled for completion by December 2003 and should be available for the meeting.

Fall 2004 – Oakland University

The meeting contact is David Garfinkle and a possible topic is gravity. Oakland University is close to Detroit.

Spring 2005 – University of Dayton

Fall 2005 – TBA

#### **10. Nominations Committee Report – Robert Brown for Ron Winters**

The slate of candidates for Executive Committee positions was distributed and will be voted upon at the business meeting held after the banquet. Bob B. had talked with Judy Franz regarding a switch to electronic voting. Her message was that national APS is not trying to legislate or enforce electronic voting. It is up to us if we want to make this change. Bob B. asked the committee for thoughts on this issue noting that our current method does perhaps get a little too “inbred”. It was noted that we do a good job of bringing new people into the section chair position. Steve asked who would run the electronic election. It was noted that perhaps electronic voting hasn’t worked as well for the national APS as expected therefore they have backed off on pressuring the sections to implement this. The conclusion of the Executive Committee was that the chair of the nominating committee should begin to electronically poll the section membership for nominations, but no move to electronic voting will take place at this time.

#### **11. Honors and Awards Committee Report - Bob B. Hengehold**

Bob H. reported that Ron Tabak will receive the Maxwell Award at the YSU banquet. He plans to present a Maxwell Award and possibly a Fowler Award at the OSU meeting. The nominee for the Fowler award still needs to be approved by the Awards Committee.

#### **12. Membership Committee – Graciela Lacueva/Fred Trexler**

The membership report was distributed and it was noted that the OS/APS membership is holding steady at 2.71%. The 3% rule seems to be gone. Bob B. noted a number of

people from the Dayton area who are APS members but not OS/APS members. He again suggested a phone call to these folks to encourage them to join the Ohio Section.

### **13. APS Council Report – Bruce Craver for Perry Yaney**

Bruce distributed the Council Report prepared by Perry and noted that the Ohio Section's turn for a voting section representative to the Council will come in about 6 years. In the report Perry noted that the Ohio Section by-laws need to be in line with APS by-laws. He also highlighted two recent actions of the APS Council regarding section council representation.

### **14. Section Expansion and Name Committee - Bahram Roughani, Robert Brown**

We will get an idea of the level of interest in section expansion beginning with the MSU meeting next spring. Bob B. feels strongly that the name should lean toward "Ohio-Michigan Section". Paul reminded the committee that right now we're trying to determine if there is interest in Michigan regarding a joint section; the name change will come later if a joint section develops.

### **15. APS Convocation Report – Paul Wolf**

Paul had previously emailed the Convocation report to the Executive Committee. The focus of the Convocation was outreach, and Paul noted that the Ohio Section does not do as well in this area as we could. One way to reach out to members is via a newsletter. Bob H. commented that at one time the Ohio Section did have a newsletter, but it was a significant amount of work and eventually ended due to lack of effort. Paul noted that if we do a newsletter that APS will mail it for the section. Bahram noted that it would be important to discuss issues relevant to the membership in a newsletter and he also pointed out the length of the newsletter is important. If it is too long, people will not take time to read it. Bruce asked what topics would be included. It was noted that AAPT has a newsletter that could be used as an example. Other outreach possibilities include a CD-ROM.

### **16. Ohio Science Education/Letter of Concern – Paul Wolf, Robert Brown**

Bob B. reported that he had discussed the possibility of the Executive Committee sending a letter to the Ohio Board of Education regarding the science education standards in Ohio with Judy Franz. Judy responded that it is OK with national APS for this type of letter to be sent. Bob B. asked whether the Executive Committee was in agreement with this. After discussion, the conclusion was yes. The issue of how the letter should be signed and how this would be interpreted was also discussed. The conclusion was that the entire Executive Committee should agree on content for the letter to come from the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society. In other cases, perhaps the letter should be signed by individual officers. It was noted that the science standards decision will be made by the state school board by the end of the calendar year, so timing is important.

### **17. Old Action Items – Robert Brown**

There were no additional old action items.

### **18. New Action Items – Robert Brown**

- 1) Duties of chair – Bob B. will prepare an updated list for the committee to consider.
- 2) Implement of electronic nomination, voting, awarding using available APS resources – Fred (Ron Winters has done some work on this)
- 3) Updating of by-laws and augmenting mission statement – Bob B. will prepare something here as well.
- 4) Outreach - We need to find a project and a leader for this project.
- 5) How to represent the section on issues of concern (currently science standards)? Does this require change in by-laws? - Paul will continue to work on letter with input from Fred and Kim.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Kimberly A. Coplin