

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

Executive Committee

Michigan State University, 11 April 2003

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, April 11, 2003 in the Galaxy Room of the Kellogg Conference Center on the Michigan State University campus. The meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Wolf at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Gordon Aubrecht, Wolfgang Bauer, Markus Böttcher, Robert Brown, Kim Coplin, Mike Crescimanno, Klaus Fritsch, Bob Hengehold, Graciela Lacueva, Elizabeth Mann, Brad Trees, Fred Trexler, and Paul Wolf.

1. Chairman Paul Wolf welcomed everyone to the meeting. Paul commented that the agenda was full and that the Bylaw discussion would be the last item on the agenda.

2. Secretary's Report and Approval of the Minutes of the Fall 2002 Meeting

The minutes of the Fall 2002 Executive Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's Report – Brad Trees and Klaus Fritsch

The Treasurer's Report was distributed prior to the meeting by email. Brad noted that Klaus will be handling the bookkeeping duties next year.

4. Chair's Report – Paul Wolf

The Chair's Report had been previously distributed via email. Paul noted several highlights from the report including Web voting, Bylaw revision, new community initiative, contact with the Forum for Graduate Student Affairs (FGSA), possible section expansion into Michigan, the letter to the Ohio School Board, and document detailing chair duties written by Bob B. He also noted near term challenges which include possible section expansion and ways to increase meeting attendance and graduate student participation. Paul noted that there is only a 40 member overlap between OS/APS and the FGSA.

Gordon mentioned that we should also work to increase undergraduate student involvement by working with SPS and considering awards for posters. Paul commented that his contact with FGSA indicates they are more interested in travel grants than prizes for presentations.

Paul continued his report by noting we should continue the new community group, consider an ad hoc committee on outreach, modify and update the Web site, complete the duties for chairs document, and modify the Hints for Hosts document.

Brad commented that to increase graduate student involvement, OS/APS will need to get PhD advisors to support and encourage their participation. Paul said he had spoken to an OSU faculty member who commented he preferred to send his students to more specialized meetings, that the OS/APS meeting is too general. Brad also noted that duties for chairs document should be expanded to include all officers. It was also suggested that the front page of this document should include a bulleted list summarizing the duties throughout the calendar year. Bob B. responded that the latest version does include a first version of these duties and bulleted list.

5. Council Report

Paul reported for Perry that the year 2005 has been designated the worldwide Year of Physics commemorating the 100th anniversary of Einstein's three papers. OS/APS should plan events and outreach in conjunction with this event. It was also noted that the Texas section has recently revised its bylaws and that the APS Council approved these new bylaws.

6. Meetings Reports

Spring 2002 – The Ohio State University – Paul Wolf for Steve Pinsky

Steve Pinsky had sent a copy of the preliminary final report to Paul. One hundred seventy people registered for the meeting (APS and AAPT) with 120 attending the banquet. The total attendance at all of the events including the Physics Department Open House was 500 people. Paul has asked Steve for additional financial details. The preliminary report shows ~\$16,000 in expenses with \$3000 coming from the Ohio Section and \$5000 from the OSU Physics Department.

Fall 2003 – Case Western Reserve University – Bob Brown

Bob B. reported that they've recently done several weekend meetings at CWRU and the logistics for this upcoming meeting are under control. Cyrus Taylor is also involved in planning this meeting. The theme of the meeting is "Physicists Get Down to Business." Bob B. said they plan to highlight new programs and hope to attract local industry while still making the meeting exciting for academia. They have presented "Physics and Business" sessions at the last three March Meetings. Bob B. also reported they are working hard to involve AAPT and have asked what worked and didn't work at the OSU meeting. The OS/AAPT will join the meeting on Saturday and Bob hopes that SOS/AAPT will be involved in the meeting as well. Bob reported they are planning a popular lecture for Saturday around 1 pm to encourage APS meeting attendees to stay for the Saturday afternoon sessions. Fred commented that providing box lunches would encourage people to stay for Saturday afternoon. Bob B. also noted that Steven Weinberg and Stephen Hawking will be at CWRU for a Cosmology conference one week before the Ohio Section meeting.

Future Meetings

The Spring 2004 meeting will be hosted by Ohio University on April 16-17. Markus Böttcher reported that the topic will be “Extragalactic Astrophysics in the Era of X-ray Astronomy.” Bob B. encouraged the meeting organizers to take advantage of the “Hints for Hosts” document.

The Fall 2004 meeting will be held at Oakland University. Bahram Roughani will assist the local committee. David Garfinkle will be one of the local meeting organizers. It was noted that the local committee needs to set the meeting dates soon.

The Spring 2005 meeting will be hosted by the University of Dayton.

Paul said he will try to get host sites for two additional meetings.

7. Membership Committee – Graciela Lacueva

The membership committee report was distributed. The Ohio Section membership currently stands at 2.68% of the national membership.

8. Honors and Awards Committee – Bob Hengehold

Bob reported that he hopes to give two Fowler Awards at the next meeting. He also reminded the committee of the award process. Nomination material is distributed and then a closed vote is taken of the official Executive Committee plus the Honors and Awards Committee Chair. There is no discussion of award candidates at Executive Committee meetings.

9. Nomination Committee – Bob Brown

Bob encouraged the members of the nominating committee to continue to try to get young people involved in the section. He introduced Elizabeth Mann of Kent State University who will be the next Ohio Section

vice-chair. The nomination committee this past year consisted of Bob as chair, Ron Tabak at YSU, Elizabeth George from Wittenberg, and, serving as the requisite APS-appointed member, David Weeks of AFIT.

10. Web Voting Committee – Fred Trexler

Fred distributed the report on Web voting. He noted that the hardest part of this job was getting the biographical information on the nominees. He also suggested that the nominating committee needs to give the voting committee at least 8 weeks lead time. He noted it takes about 1 week to create the ballot and that it took about 1 week for APS to send out an email inviting people to vote. He reported that after an individual voted they received a thank you message that took them to the Ohio Section website. Only 14% of the section membership had to be sent a paper ballot saving ~\$1000 in mailing costs. Fred reported that one individual had a concern about being sure the ballot was

secret. Fred also noted that individuals could not vote twice and that our experience with Web voting was consistent with the New England and Texas sections experiences. Mike asked Fred how much time this task took. Fred responded he spent approximately 3 mornings (total 10-12 hours) on this project. Bob B. commented that it would be nice to have the election early so the winners could be notified to allow them time to make plans to attend the spring meeting. Fred emphasized that it is necessary to give APS plenty of lead time. It was suggested that the “duties of the chair” document request that the report from the nominating committee come by November 1. The Executive Committee thanked Fred for a job well done!

11. Hints for Hosts

Paul reported that due to Perry’s work on the bylaw revisions, the Hints for Hosts document updating is on hold. Ron Winters and Bob H. will help Perry. Mike suggested it may be a good idea to find someone else to take on this task.

12. Outreach – “New Community Group” – Mike Crescimanno

Mike reported that this initiative will start at this meeting. Five young faculty (each with less than 2 years in the section) will be gathering for lunch.

13. Duties for Chairs – Paul Wolf

Paul will edit the document after this meeting.

14. APS Convocation Report – Paul Wolf

The convocation report had been distributed by email. Paul mentioned a few highlights. Many units are interested in APS doing Web balloting, but this won’t come until later this year at the earliest. APS hosts ~67% of the unit Web sites. We might consider this for the Ohio Section. APS is currently working on allowing local Webmasters access to the site. Gordon noted that he has worked to get APS Bulletins of Ohio Section Meetings posted to the OS/APS Web site. Bob H. suggested to Mike that he consider ways to reach out to retired members of the Ohio Section.

15. Bylaws Committee

Paul suggested that the committee work through the bylaws voting article by article. He reminded the committee that only the official members of the Executive Committee could vote, although he invited everyone to participate in the discussion. Bob B. noted that it should be fairly easy to make changes to the bylaws in the future and encouraged the committee not to fear change.

Article I - Name

Bob Brown moved that we accept Article I. Brad Trees seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Article II - Objective

Mike Crescimanno moved Article II. After discussion of the word “diffusion”, it was agreed that the committee would not discuss minor modifications of wording. Instead Paul will come back to the committee with suggested wording later via email. Final voting on minor wording changes will take place by email. This modification in voting procedure was unanimously approved.

Article III - Enabling Constitutional Provision

Mike Crescimanno moved that we accept Article III. Brad Trees second and the motion was unanimously approved.

Article IV - Membership

The committee discussed removing Item 1. Geographical Region. Mike Crescimanno moved that section 1. Geographical Region be deleted. The motion was seconded by Klaus Fritsch and passed with 7 votes for and 1 against.

Article V - Executive Committee

This article was moved and seconded. During discussion, Paul suggested that the past-chair become the section council observer. It was noted that every 14 years that Ohio Section would be responsible for the Section Councilor and that an election could be held at that time. Gordon suggested that the past-chair remain an officer of the Executive Committee while the past-past chair become the council observer. Fred clarified that is the past-past-chair chooses not to serve as a member at large, that position remains vacant.

After further discussion, Article V. was unanimously approved with no changes.

At this point, the discussion on the by-laws was briefly stopped for the MSU meeting report.

16. Local Chairs Report – Wolfgang Bauer

Wolfgang reported that meeting registrations number 135. There are 50 contributed talks and 20 posters.

After this report, the committee continued with the by-laws discussion.

Article VI - Officers, Council Observer, and Duties

The article was moved and seconded. There was no discussion on sections 1,2,3,4. It was pointed out that Section 5. Duties of the Secretary seems unbalanced. Gordon asked why the membership committee was eliminated and suggested maybe the section have an appointed membership committee. Fred commented that he didn't feel the duties of the secretary as outlined in the revisions were too much. Kim noted that the individual holding the office of secretary would have to be willing to make a large commitment to the section. Graciela suggested that the oversight of elections be moved to the vice-chair. Fred Trexler moved "The vice-chair shall oversee elections as specified in Article VII of the Bylaws." This motion was seconded by Klaus Fritsch and passed with 6 votes for and 1 against. During discussion of section 7. Duties of the Treasurer, Klaus commented that our current practice is to have the chair, not the treasurer make a report at the annual business meeting.

Article VII – Election and Tenure of the Officers and Executive Committee Members

Article VII was moved and seconded. During discussion of section 3., it was suggested that the language be changed to call for nominations of at least one candidate instead of at least two candidates.

At this point, due to the lack of time left for discussion, Klaus Fritsch moved that the vote on remaining articles be tabled. The motion was seconded by Brad Trees and unanimously approved.

Discussion on the remaining articles continued. It was suggested that the council observer should be an elected officer since he/she will be a voting member of the executive committee. An additional suggestion was that a way to deal with vacancies would be to have the chair appoint an associate treasurer and associate secretary. It was also noted that the position of Archivist should be officially added.

An additional meeting of the Executive Committee will be scheduled to complete work on the Bylaw revisions.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly A. Coplin