

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

Executive Committee

Ohio University, 16 April 2004

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, 16 April 2004 in the Trustees Conference Room in the New Lecture Hall Facility on the Ohio University campus. In attendance were Robert Brown, Bruce Craver, Klaus Fritsch, Elizabeth George, Bob Hengehold, Sabine Jeschonnek, Graciela Lacueva, Elizabeth Mann, Crittenden Ohlemacher, Fred Trexler, Uwe Trittman, Paul Wolf, Louis Wright, and Perry Yaney. Mike Crescimanno also participated via a conference call.

1. Elizabeth Mann presided over the meeting in the absence of Mike Crescimanno and called the meeting to order at 10:05 am by welcoming everyone to the Ohio University campus.

2. Paul Wolf welcomed the new members of the Executive Committee – UweTrittman (Chair-elect), Crittenden Ohlemacher (Vice-Chair), Elizabeth George (Secretary), and Sabine Jeschonnek and Cameron Reed (Members-at-Large).

3. Secretary's Report and Approval of the Minutes of the Fall 2003 Meeting

The minutes of the Spring 2003 Executive Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

Bruce Craver asked about retaining the paper ballots since there had been no formal policy. It was agreed they need not be retained once the election results had been reported by the Chair Elect.

4. Meetings Reports

Spring 2004 – Ohio University Local Chair's Report

Louis Wright reported that there were 196 registrants for the meeting, 140 from out of town. This meeting coincides with the bicentennial celebration for Ohio University. They have received \$4,000 from local support and \$3,000 from OSAPS, but there may possibly be some returned to OSAPS. There are between 36 and 38 posters submitted, and there will be parallel sessions running from 8:15 to 10:15 am Saturday.

Fall 2004 Oakland University – Brad Roth

The Oakland meeting will be 15-16 Oct 2004 and will be a joint meeting with the Michigan Section AAPT. The topic will be Physics in Medicine and Teaching 20th Century Physics in the 21st Century. Two confirmed invited speakers are Mario Belloni, who will discuss applications of physlets in physics education, and Paul Callaghan, who will discuss Magnetic Resonance Imaging. The other two speakers and the after-dinner speaker have not yet been selected. There is a hotel within walking distance. Registration will be about \$35 for members and none for students. It was noted there is up to \$1000 to support students presenting a contributed paper on which they are first author. Robert Brown said he would contact OSAAPT chairs about the meeting. Brad stated Arts and Sciences had contributed \$4000, \$3000 came from other internal sources. That plus the \$3000 from registration and \$3000 from OSAPS equals a total of 13,000.

Spring 2005 – University of Dayton

The topic of this meeting scheduled 8-9 April will be Nanophotonics. At this time one speaker is set. The public after-dinner talk will fit the theme of the World Year of Physics. An array of old posters of Einstein will be on display. AFIT will be a cosponsor and Paul Wolf will be interfacing with SOS/AAPT and Sigma Xi.

5. Honors and Awards Committee – Bob Hengehold

Bob Hengehold announced there would be three awards given at the banquet, two Fowler Awards, to Art Epstein in chemical physics and Gary Steigman in astrophysics. Gordon Aubrecht will receive the Maxwell Award. Bob thanked everyone for their responses and encouraged all to make suggestions. He mentioned that forms are available and requested they be used although that has not been the case. Paul Wolf wondered if this submission process should be turned over to the National office. Robert Brown also raised the possibility that there be monetary awards accompanying the awards. There was no consensus on either issue but will be explored in the future.

6. Membership Committee – Fred Trexler

Fred Trexler distributed a membership report showing the average OSAPS membership over the last 6 years is 1149 ± 19 and that as of 9 April 2004 it stands at 1157. OSAPS comprises 2.67% of APS membership. The main contributions to OSAPS membership by percentages, accounting for 80% of total membership, are as follows: OH(47%), MI(11%), PA(8%), IN(7%), IL(5%), and KY(2%).

The new OSAPS Bylaws were passed by an overwhelming majority of 98% of a total of 192 votes (17% of membership.) Web ballots accounted for 187 votes and were verified manually by APS member numbers. About 150 paper ballots were sent and 18 were returned.

Executive Committee elections were carried out for the first time by a web ballot employing the APS Unit Ballot System. Email invitations to vote were sent to 1061 members, each with a unique URL for tracking. In the final tally there were 220 web ballots and 16 (a correction to the 12 initially in the Membership report) paper ballots cast, 1 of which had an irregularity because too many votes were cast for at-large candidates. The at-large ballots were ignored, but those for all other positions were retained. Those voting were 20% of membership.

7. APS Council Report – Perry Yaney

Perry Yaney has contacted the new and past Section Council representatives about the Councillor position. The new Councillor Gianfranco Vidali said the Ohio Section must elect the next Councillor. Joe Hamilton has not yet responded. The main topic at the Council meeting was the World Year of Physics.

Perry also noted that all members of the Executive Committee should obtain copies of the new By-Laws from the OSAPS home page so that the committee adheres to these rules. He then outlined some of the responsibilities mentioned in the new By-Laws. The Chair is responsible for selecting two members of the Nominating Committee, with a third selected by the Council. The Program Committee shall consist of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Section. The Honors Committee has three members, appointed by the Chair. They may not be current Executive Committee members, and at least two must have been past Officers of the Section.

Perry also briefly described the responsibilities of the Council observer representative and the Section Council Representative. These must have been Executive Committee members. The Councillor will serve a 4-year term and will become a member of at least 1 Council subcommittee. Perry's last comments on the Councillor position were that the Section Councillor is elected from different sections each time, and hence there is no seniority, and as a consequence in that environment it is advisable to have someone with a strong research record.

8. Fall 2003 Local Chair's Final Report – Bob Brown

This meeting was held at Case Western Reserve University 17-18 Oct. 2003 as a joint meeting with the AAPT Ohio Section. The theme of the OSAPS was “Physicists Get Down to Business” and that of “No Physics Teacher Left Behind.” There were 221 registered for the meeting (163 APS and 55 AAPT registrants and 135 banquet attendees.) There were 50 posters and 5 contributed sessions with 10 papers each. There were 45 published abstracts for which APS charged \$70 more than the Section and charged the contributors. The \$70 has been charged to OSAPS by APS. The total expense of the meeting was \$21643. Bob said the AAPT(Northern) Section was very happy with their integration into the meeting.

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

Klaus thanked Brad Trees for his long service. The Treasurer's Report was then distributed and discussed. Klaus noted the Section balance was down by about \$2500 and the Michigan State final report was not yet in. The preliminary cost was approximately \$9000. It was noted that an abstract charge of about \$900 and a one-time cost for the web voting were not yet included. In addition, as of Jan 2004 APS has instituted an increase from \$170 to \$180 page charge for abstract publication. Klaus reported on some what if? calculations he had run for the last 6 meetings and found that an increase from \$40 to \$45 in the Section charge for abstract publication would meet expenses with a small surplus. A motion to increase the abstract publication fee to \$45 effective beginning at the Fall 2004 was unanimously passed. Bob Hengehold reminded the Section to encourage hosts to view the \$3000 from OSAPS as an upper limit rather than a default contribution by the Section to each host. It was suggested that the registration fee for members be raised from \$35. It was decided there should be a comparison with other Sections. Perry Yaney said he would explore this issue.

New Business

10. Future Meetings – Elizabeth Mann and Mike Crescimanno

Mike Crescimanno thanked Fred Trexler, Paul Wolf and Bob Brown for their help. Wayne State has agreed to host the Fall 2005 meeting. The topic will be Solid State and Surface Science. They were invited to attend the Ohio University and Oakland University meetings. They will continue to look for another Michigan school. Kim Coplin (Denison) and Brad Trees (Ohio Wesleyan) have expressed an interest in hosting a meeting but nothing is decided yet. Mike suggested the SP 2006 meeting be in northern Ohio, possibly Ohio Northern University or Akron U. There is also interest at Miami U.

Klaus raised the question, discussed at the previous meeting, as to how the money for Science Day (\$600) and for student travel (a maximum of \$1000) is to be distributed. It was agreed, not by a formal vote, that the Section Chair-Elect (as liaison to the local meeting chair) shall decide how to distribute the money for student travel and to notify the Treasurer. The money for Science Day is distributed by the Treasurer on request by the Southern Ohio Section of the AAPT.

11. Outreach:

Student Leaders – Paul Wolf reported there had been no response in the search for a student representative to the Section Executive Committee. The plan is to have Councilor and student Section representative on ballot prior to the Fall OSAPS meeting.

New Community Lunch – Graciela Lacueva reported she would be meeting with three new faculty, an astronomer, a biophysicist and a polymer scientist for the luncheon today.

Filming of this Ohio Section meeting – Fred Trexler said Kirby Runyon would do the filming. His goal is to focus on young faculty and graduate students and to capture the excitement of the meetings. There will be a

DVD and a video which others could see. It would be about 15 minutes but a short cut could be useful on the web.

Outreach to underserved teachers - Perry Yaney suggested the local chairs should more strongly emphasize high school teachers. AAPT is not active in all communities and AIP has travel funds for speakers that might appeal to these teachers.

12. Membership drive at meetings

Mike Crescimanno obtained from APS a list of Ohio members who are not OSAPS members and has integrated it into a personalized mailing list. Mike wrote two possible versions of a flyer encouraging membership in OSAPS and providing procedures for joining. The brown form refers them to a web site where they can join and a yellow form which must be signed and returned to any OSAPS Executive Committee member. It was decided the brown is the simpler one to implement. There was a suggestion that if this is implemented in Oakland that FAQ about might possibly included on the back.

13. Ohio – Michigan Section Name Change

Bob Brown asked about our direction concerning joining with Michigan. It was felt this would continue to evolve and that there would be no plan to change the name as yet.

14. World Year of Physics

Perry noted that we would have an exhibit of commemorative framed Einstein posters and that the banquet speaker would try to address the theme of World Year of Physics. Mike Crescimanno said if we wish to involve Relativity the APS Topical Group in Gravitation has a speakers list.

Old Business

15. Election Update: APS Web Ballot

Fred reported that 2 years ago 12% of membership voted in Section elections. Last year 12% again participated by voting at the Ohio University web site. In the last election 20% participated in the APS Unit Ballot. This also has the advantage there no worries about nonmembers voting or double voting.

Fred made a few recommendations. First, he suggested a limit of 200 words to the biographies. He pointed out we need to allow 1 week between when ballot information is submitted and the start of voting. Perry thanked Fred for his dedicated service. Mike raised some concern about the labor involved in running the elections and Fred volunteered to serve on an ad hoc committee for the next year to assist the Secretary with the web balloting. Bruce Craver was also appointed to assist.

16. Unit convocation news/OBoE letter

There was a discussion of the recent Ohio Board of Education decision to allow discussion of intelligent as an alternative to evolution in science classes. Mike Crescimanno noted that some people casting votes thought they had actually voted to include only biochemical evolution. He suggested i) the Section become involved in these issues earlier – at the committee level, perhaps through the Ohio Academy of Sciences and ii) the Section could write a letter members of the Section could sign, as was done in the Texas Section. Elizabeth Mann noted that there had even been attacks on Newton's Laws. Bob Brown commented that the Ohio Section Executive Committee had tried to respond but could not achieve unanimity.

Again a welcome was extended to all new Executive Committee members.

Other New Business

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce A. Craver