

Minutes of the Ohio-Region Section of the American Physical Society (approved)  
Executive Committee Meeting  
4 May 2007, Eastern Michigan University

The Executive Committee of the Ohio-Region Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, 4 May 2007 in Room 320 of the EMU Student Center. In attendance were Jim Andrews, Ernie Behringer, Mellita Caragiu, Jeff Dyck, Elizabeth George, Robert Hengehold, Herbert Jaeger, Sabine Jeschonnek, Chris Lemon, Critt Ohlemacher, Brad Trees, Fred Trexler, Uwe Trittman, and Paul Wolf.

1. Critt Ohlemacher presided over the meeting, calling it to order at 10:05 a.m. and beginning with introductions and greetings.

2. Secretary's report: Elizabeth George

The Fall 2006 Executive Committee minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Meetings reports

Spring 2007, Eastern Michigan University: Ernie Behringer

There were 95 early registrations, roughly evenly split between Ohio and Michigan (with 1 each from Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Canada). They've taken in \$7669, including \$3000 from OSAPS, and expect to break even with EMU's contribution included. There will be 22 contributed talks, 25 posters, and 4 invited talks. These are comparable numbers to the Oakland University meeting.

Fall 2007, Miami University: Herbert Jaeger

Meeting dates are Oct. 19-20; the meeting is joint with SOS/AAPT. Planning is proceeding well. The theme will be Undergraduate Research. The after-dinner performance will be "A Living History of Marie Curie." A flyer announcing the conference is available.

Spring 2008, Youngstown State University: Jim Andrews

Meeting dates are March 28-29, 2008; the meeting is joint with Ohio Section AAPT. The theme of the meeting will be "Touring the Electromagnetic Spectrum." Three of four of the invited talks have been confirmed. The Friday evening (after-dinner) speaker will talk about climate change. There will be some internal financial support from YSU. They are requesting funding from OSAPS as well.

Fall 2008, Wright State University/AFIT: Bob Hengehold

The meeting will be either the first or second week in October at Wright State. The AFIT organizers are working with people at WSU to plan the meeting. A tentative topic is chemical physics. The meeting will be joint with the Southern Ohio Section of AAPT. Given the theme, the meeting may also involve the American Chemical Society and/or the WSU Chemistry Department.

Longer-term meeting plans:

John Carroll will not host the Spring 2009 meeting due to a faculty retirement and staffing considerations.

Ohio Northern is in the process of building a new science building and would like to host when that's done. They may be willing to host in spring 2009, depending on the status of their building. We will need to have a decision about whether or not ONU will host the spring 2009 meeting by no later than September 2007 so that we can immediately contact alternative sites if ONU can't host the meeting. Suggestions for alternative sites included Bowling Green or Kent State.

Ohio Wesleyan still plans to host the fall 2009 meeting.

#### 4. Local Chair's final report

Spring 2006, Wayne State University: Jeff Dyck has contacted Claude Pruneau and asked him to send us more details.

It was suggested that we should place copies of the final reports on the section Website. In order to facilitate this, the treasurer should get electronic copies of the final reports. It was also mentioned that there's no example of a final report in the Hints for Hosts document—this should be included next time the document is revised.

Fall 2006, Univ. of Akron, Wayne College: Tim Vierheller provided a detailed written report. OSAPS will get approximately \$2200 back. Brad Trees noted that the budget should show a balanced bottom line, that is, the OSAPS contribution should be listed at the eventual value of about \$800 rather than \$3000, so that income and expenses are the same.

#### 5. Honors and Awards Committee: Bob Hengehold

There are no awards at this meeting, but we will be giving Maxwell awards at several future meetings. The committee will announce the awards before the meetings at which they're given. The committee is still working hard to get Fowler candidates identified and nominated. Ideas for this were discussed.

#### 6. Treasurer's report: Jeff Dyck

Income has come from interest and from dues (\$4/member). Expenses include BAPS charges (Spring '05 and Fall '06), and outreach (Optics kits for the Fall '06 meeting and support of Miami Valley Techfest). The Spring '05 meeting charges have now been finalized. There's a discrepancy between BAPS page charges and abstract fees collected for the Spring '05 meeting; perhaps more abstracts were published than money was collected for. In the last few years, we've had a steady increase in membership, and our financial resources are still growing.

The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

#### 7. APS Councilor's report: Paul Wolf

The APS Task Force on Industrial Physics has made several recommendations for increasing participation in APS by industrial members, including an APS Prize; journal packs; and nominating more industrial physicists as APS fellows. OSAPS should also be looking for ways to draw physicists in industry into section activities.

OSAPS has 3.27% of APS membership (ranking 5<sup>th</sup> of 8 sections, behind SE, NE, NY, and

California).

APS has launched a website as a resource for ethics education, including case studies. Ernie Behringer pointed out that there will be a workshop at this meeting with Marshall Thomsen, who was on the APS Ethics task force.

The National Academies is launching the “Year of Science 2009” with a focus on communicating to the public the nature and role of science. APS is one of the participating organizations. The organizers are looking for additional organizations to participate. Our 2009 meeting organizers should consider piggybacking on this effort (see [www.yearofscience2009.org](http://www.yearofscience2009.org)). Paul Wolf suggested that we should have a task force to work on specific ways to support this initiative.

#### 8. Election results: Critt Ohlemacher

Elected were:

Vice Chair: Terrence Sheridan

Secretary: Elizabeth George

Student representative: Christopher Lemon

Member-at-large: Dennis Kuhl

Also, the section name change passed handily.

Next year’s elections will be for Treasurer and Vice Chair; the next member-at-large election will be in 2009. The APS Councilor term expires in December 2008, and then the position (as an official member of the APS Executive Committee) will shift to another section, but we will still need to appoint someone as section Councilor.

#### 9. APS Unit Convocation: Brad Trees

APS is becoming more heavily involved in education, outreach, and advocacy, and expects units to take an active role in these efforts. There will be a new committee on communication with the public; starting this summer, units will be able to make proposals to this committee for significant outreach activities (e.g. on the scale of Techfest).

Outreach to industrial physicists was discussed. Paul Wolf suggested providing funding for industrial physicists to attend two meetings for free. There was discussion about reaching and attracting physicists in industry by offering something they find valuable, such as being part of a community with shared interests. Perhaps a meeting on industrial applications would encourage more industrial physicists to participate, but then we would need physicists from industry to take the lead in planning such a meeting. It was pointed out that industrial physicists may identify more with engineering than with physics. The question of what percentage of the OSAPS membership base is in industry was raised.

Brad reported that APS wants each unit to think about having a public information specialist and an education committee or liaison.

Brad was told by APS staff that they were planning to charge a processing fee for each abstract, but they didn’t provide many details (flat fee of something like \$15/abstract, no printed BAPS);

supposedly the policy started in March of this year. When planning this meeting, Ernie Behringer was told that less than 100 abstracts would be free. Since the situation wasn't clear, he went ahead with the old registration/abstract procedures.

There was agreement that the situation is confusing, and it was suggested that Jeff Dyck watch carefully to see what APS actually does about charging for abstracts in the future. Jeff reported that nothing's changed in the actual charges to OSAPS yet. In the meantime, meeting organizers will continue to use the old registration/charging system till we know otherwise.

Mellita Caragiui reported on suggestions for attracting/retaining members, such as an incentive (coupon) to sign up for APS/ section membership in meeting registration packets. Paul Wolf pointed out that the practice of passing around a signup sheet at OSAPS meetings for people to become members of the section seems to be successful, but it would be interesting to know how many of those people remain paying members. Fred Trexler may have that information, or be able to find it out.

Brad Trees mentioned that Leo Kadanoff said that the majority of APS membership growth is in student (initially free) membership—it's not clear how many of those are retained as full dues-paying members.

#### 10. APS abstract fees

This was already discussed under the Unit Convocation item.

#### 11. Dayton Section of the American Chemical Society Central Regional Meeting in Dayton, June, 2010

An ACS member contacted Critt Ohlemacher asking if we want to be involved in their June 2010 ACS Central Regional meeting in Dayton. This is typically a 3-4-day meeting, and is rather large (300-400 people). Critt doesn't know whether it'll be at an academic site or the Dayton Convention Center (they use alternate formats). There was agreement that Critt should follow up and let them know that we're tentatively interested and get more information. The ACS "Central Region" consists of MI, KY, OH, and perhaps PA, so it overlaps well with OSAPS. Bob Hengehold mentioned that Perry Yaney has been involved with ACS before.

#### 12. Membership Committee: Fred Trexler

A handout was provided summarizing the election results and current membership statistics. There are currently 1521 members (an increase of 5.6% over March 2006). Membership includes 155 APS fellows and 445 students (386 graduate students). By states, the largest representation is OH (42%), then MI (12%).

Critt Ohlemacher asked about the ability to track the retention of members who joined via the meeting signup ("yellow notepad"). Fred doesn't have a list of who signed up that way—he could track them if he had those names. Critt volunteered to get a copy of this year's signup list to Fred so he can start tracking their retention. Mike Crescimanno probably has the previous lists. Fred said that he could also look at student members to see how well they are retained.

Online balloting was used for the election again. Only one reminder email was sent out this year,

but we still had a 16.4% turnout. (Last year the 2<sup>nd</sup> reminder brought in 51 more votes.) Fred stated that a 15-20% turnout for an online ballot is reasonable. This year the trial votes seem to have not counted, since the trial voters got an email reminder. Also this year an “abstain” option was provided.

Fred made several recommendations for the next election. The nominating committee needs to meet in the fall to select candidates so that the election can be held before the spring meeting. The chair of the nominating committee needs to make sure the candidates provide the Web ballot administrator with all needed information (including a picture).

13. OSAPS webpage: Critt Ohlemacher for Perry Yaney

Perry is still waiting for direct access to the website after APS completes updates to it.

14. Membership drive at meetings: Critt Ohlemacher

This will happen as usual at this meeting.

15. Procedures to help new executive committee members: Critt Ohlemacher

Critt Ohlemacher will send out the one for Chair soon. Elizabeth will collect the other ones she has and send them out after that.

16. Future meetings: Critt Ohlemacher

We have the next few years pretty well covered, but we need to continue to look for future sites so that we maintain a comfortable lead time for meetings.

17. OSAPS logo: Mellita Caragiu

Mellita has created a handout of suggested designs. She ran them by the APS graphic design person (who claimed he was the one to approve any OSAPS logo). His comments were that logos 7 & 8 were unacceptable (too much modification of the APS logo). Number 2 needs changes in size (OSAPS) and type (Ohio-Region) of font, and the ellipses need to be made less faint. The vertical lettering in numbers 5&6 is a problem. He preferred number 3, though with a different font and without the box. Number 4 is similar to 3, but he thought that including both the name and abbreviation of the section was redundant.

Paul Wolf asked about the APS policy re using their logo. Mellita said that the APS graphic designer told her that we were allowed to use it, but not to modify it. Paul suggested that we need to check with APS at a higher level (perhaps with Ken Cole) to make sure that we’re following policy if we want to incorporate the APS logo. We don’t have to use the APS logo at all in our design, however.

Bob Hengehold suggested taking an informal poll of Executive Committee members to choose a preferred logo, then go to Ken Cole or Judy Franz for approval.

An informal vote on logos 2-6 was taken. Logo 4 had 8 votes, logo 5 had 3 votes, logo 2 had one vote, and logos 3 and 6 had no votes.

A discussion followed. We could wait to get more options, but then it will be six more months

till the logo is finalized. Alternatively, we could bring the top three (logos 4, 5, and 2) to membership in an email, and ask for any additional suggestions.

Paul Wolf moved that we adopt logo number 4; Sabine Jeschonnek seconded.

Critt Ohlemacher suggested that before deciding we need to look at samples of the logos in different contexts (for example, on letterhead or on stickers) so we can make sure they'll look good in different sizes. It was also pointed out that only the Executive Committee has provided ideas for logos so far. After some general discussion, the motion was withdrawn. The SEAPS logo was discussed as an example of a successful section logo.

A competition for the design of a new OSAPS logo was proposed. Mellita volunteered to write a draft of rules and prize amounts and circulate the draft by email to the Executive Committee for an email vote on the rules. We agreed that the logos we're currently considering can be entered; Mellita and Uwe will check to see who submitted which ones.

We should set a deadline that gives time for the Executive Committee to see the submissions before the fall meeting (perhaps a deadline of Sept. 1). The submissions can be brought to the fall meeting for an Executive Committee vote. Herbert Jaeger suggested that we announce the winner at the banquet at the fall meeting.

The meeting was suspended for lunch at 12:15 p.m., and reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

#### 18. Outreach: Critt Ohlemacher

Critt reminded us that we gave \$1500 to the Miami Valley Techfest this year, and will again next year. Bob Hengehold reported that he attended Techfest, which was well attended by the public and by exhibitors; there were lots of things for young people to see and do, and it seemed like a good thing for us to fund. Critt reminded us that the Executive Committee will need to review the situation to see if we will continue to contribute to Techfest after 2008.

Critt sat in on part of the Optics workshop at the U. Akron Wayne College meeting, and thought it went well. There are some optics kits left for future meetings.

Critt emailed the contact for the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Toledo, but never got an answer. It was moved (Brad Trees) and seconded (Jeff Dyck) that we try again to make contact. The motion passed, so Critt will try again. The amount of the prize agreed on was, we think, \$50. (Note added later: the specific prize amount was not specified in the fall 2006 meeting at which it was decided to fund a prize at this symposium.)

State Science Day physics prizes: Jeff Dyck recently sent \$600 for last year's prizes and \$600 for this year's prizes to Gordon Aubrecht. Gordon has requested that we either increase the size of the awards, or add honorable mention awards. He points out that the number of participants has increased (156 this year), and that the size of other special prizes ranges from very large (e.g. college scholarships) to comparable to what we give. There was a general discussion of his request; perhaps we should increase the prizes, or give a certain amount and let the judges decide how to split it up. The question was raised as to whether we want to commit to this on an

ongoing basis or revisit this after a few years. Jeff Dyck pointed out that last year our balance grew by four thousand dollars (10%). Critt Ohlemacher volunteered to find out whether Michigan has a State Science Day too. Paul Wolf moved that we increase the total yearly prize amount to \$1000, to be used at the discretion of the judging committee for the State Science Day physics award, starting in 2008. Brad Trees seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Job bulletin board: Sabine Jeschonnek reported that the bulletin board is now up on the section webpage. She sent an email message about the bulletin board a few weeks ago to Ohio physics chairs, and will do the same for Michigan now that the name change has gone through. She has also placed flyers about the service at the registration desk for this meeting. Elizabeth will have APS send out the information on the flyer to all OSAPS members. Sabine will continue running the bulletin board service until one of the new members-at-large can pick it up.

Contemporary Physics Education Project posters to give to high school teachers as door prizes at AAPT section meetings haven't been ordered yet; Critt will follow up on this. The question was raised as to how we plan to distribute them to the three sections (Ohio, Southern Ohio, and Michigan). We need a list of contacts.

Mellita Caragiu brought up the issue of supporting students to present at OSAPS meetings—we need to make it easier for students to apply for travel money. Jeff Dyck indicated that there have been no applications for recent meetings. There was a general discussion of ways to encourage students to apply. Suggestions were that the local chair needs to advertise; we need to have a link on our Website for travel grant application forms; and the Hints for Hosts document needs to emphasize the need to publicize the travel grants.

Bob Hengehold suggested that Perry Yaney would be glad to put a link to an application form on the website.

Jeff Dyck pointed out that the current total amount per meeting authorized for travel grants is \$500. The current Hints for Hosts document limits grants to \$20/student for travel expenses and \$25/student for lodging.

There was a sense that we may need to increase those amounts. Critt Ohlemacher moved and Elizabeth George seconded that we change the limits to \$40 per student for travel expenses, \$50 per student for lodging, and a total pool of \$1000 for each meeting. The motion carried. Herbert Jaeger volunteered to make up an application form and will send it to Perry Yaney for the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth George  
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