

Minutes of the Ohio-Region Section of the American Physical Society (approved) Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the Ohio-Region Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, 15 April 2011, in the O'Connell Reading Room of the Dolan Science Center at John Carroll University. In attendance were Hyundeok Song, Terry Sheridan, Bob Hengehold, Cornel Rablau, Linn Van Woerkom, Mo Ahoujja, Jeff Dyck, Perry Yaney, Dennis Kuhl, Roy Day, Herbert Jaeger, Gordon Aubrecht, Laura Van Wormer, Jason Pinkney and David Weeks.

David Weeks presided over the meeting, calling it to order at 10:05 am, and began with introductions.

I. Business:

Executive Committee members' reports:

- Minutes from the Fall 2010 meeting were handed out, amended and approved.
- Treasurer's report *Jeff Dyck (and upcoming treasurer Roy Day)*

The report is fairly straightforward – on the income side, it is noticeably lower, as a result of the downward adjustment on the interest rate. Membership dues provide the other income source, at \$4/member, slightly lower than last year. It comes the first of each year, January. Expenses include Science Day awards, outreach funding, student travel grants, speaker honoraria and seed grant for the next meeting. On the notes, I'm still watching BAPS page charges, we haven't had a charge in a long time. It could be that if we exceed 100 abstracts in one year, then they charge \$25/abstract above that. I think we average more than 100 a year.

Do people weed through the abstracts? Jeff: we were aware of some things in our meetings. We talked with Vinaya (at APS), you can submit as many first person abstracts as you want – we got 5 from one person, we accepted one and made it a poster. There is a rule at the national meeting that you can't do that. Vinaya said we should accept one first author contributor.

Is there a filter that says you submitted an abstract but never registered? No, and that happens.

When someone submits 6 and we accept 1, do we pay? No, because we went back to that person and asked which one to submit. Dennis: we also contacted person and they withdrew it. Roy Day: we took the attitude that you don't filter based on content, but cut it down to 1 abstract per person. (though we allowed some to do a poster as well). They are trying to finalize the scientific program before the meeting; people aren't informed of acceptance until we structure the meeting. They could then come to the meeting and pay an extra \$10 on site. It sounds like it is just a few people?...yes.

The charge against our hundred doesn't occur until it gets put online and is finalized. Yes, theoretically though they haven't charged us in several years.

Did we charge for abstracts this time? Yes, \$10/abstract, most of that we've received already. It is still the policy that they are supposed to be charging us. We don't really want to ask! It really doesn't cost them anything to put it up on BAPS.

If someone can get on the abstract list easily but they don't come and give it, is there any way of dealing with it after the fact? Dennis: in obvious cases, we contacted them, but once it's up on line there isn't any way to track. That's a weakness in the system. It has always been there, but now we pay – supposedly, though not actually for the last few years.

Do we have a number for the actual number of abstracts? Jeff: We don't have a number at the moment, but it's usually over a hundred. Jeff and Roy will communicate and follow up.

Does it matter who pays the abstract fee if there is a list of authors? Do we look at that? Jeff: it doesn't matter who pays, you could keep track of that but we don't. We chose to have it point to first author though in practice the advisor often pays.

Estimates for last two meetings, the net cost from the Kettering meeting is \$3000 plus \$700 in student travel grants. You did take in abstract fees but it wasn't itemized in report. It's helpful to have that even though it technically gets passed through. It shouldn't be part of the meeting income because it should go back to the section. For Marietta, there is a check in the mail. They will be returning \$306.97 of the seed grant back to OSAPS; their net costs were the \$3000 seed grant, \$760 in student travel grants plus 3 x \$400 honoraria charges.

Meeting column is final cost to the section (page 2 of the Treasurer's report). We need to follow up with Kettering and Marietta to get final numbers. Page 3 of the report shows meeting budgets over time. I don't think the Spring 2007 meeting at Kent State University was free but we didn't get a final report. Page 3 also shows meeting expenses to OSAPS (seed grants, student travel expenses, speaker honoraria). Page 4 shows that, up until Fall 2005, these tracked very closely. There used to be a page charge, but starting around 2007 we went to a new model: in 2008 some large charges and since then, none. Dues charges to membership, have been very steady since 2007.

Regarding membership numbers, there is some discrepancy due to those who have passed away but are still on the list. We have about 120 people who have lifetime memberships; we don't check their status. That may also be changed because Herbert looked in March, Jeff's dues are assessed in January. The last page of the report is OSAPS financial resources – a little noise but mostly very steady.

Meetings reports:

- Current meeting report (Spring 2011) John Carroll University *Jeff Dyck*

The meeting's theme is novel materials for our energy future; 5 plenary speakers, though one almost didn't make it due to the government shut down; 32 oral presentations, 37 posters, 108 pre-registered, 8 from MI and 1 from WV, 63 students and 83 banquet reservations. There are still some banquet tickets set aside that are for sale. There are about 20-25 on site registrants. In the Cleveland metro area, we might get a few more.

- Past meeting report (Fall 2010) Marietta College *Dennis Kuhl*

We had 4 invited speakers, after dinner entertainment at the planetarium, and 5 parallel sections on Saturday morning. We also hosted the AAPT and Appalachian section meetings.

126 total registered, which seems to be down a little. Note that within that there were about 20 from the Appalachian region and 12 from the southern Ohio section of AAPT. We had 82 at the banquet and a large luncheon on Saturday because of the AAPT sections. There were 31 OSAPS contributed talks plus 14 AAPT talks; only 15 posters registered and only 7 or 8 showed up. It seemed like a good venue and good conversations for so few posters.

Regarding income, 3 of the 4 speakers accepted honoraria. As was predicted, one of the speakers was from a government funded lab and couldn't accept it. Some money from our endowment was spent on poster display boards, which they are keeping.

We may not have collected \$10 for every abstract, but for accounting purposes we assumed that we did. (It was close.) Check to return \$306.97 will be sent next week.

Regarding BAPS fees, the way we had it on the registration form was confusing, in part because there was confusion about how they were registering, as OSAPS or AAPT region. It is

something to think about in the future, to find a way to make it clear that if you are presenting at the OSAPS part of the meeting, there is a charge.

- Next meeting report (Fall 2011) Ball State University *David Weeks*

It will be on Oct. 14-15, 2011 at Ball State University; the topic will be Applied Physics. They have a web site:

<http://cms.bsu.edu/Academics/CollegesandDepartments/PhysicsandAstronomy/OSPAS.aspx>.

Are there any plans for outreach to Indiana schools (IUPUI-Fort Wayne) who are nearby? Dave: I'm not sure about advertising in the area.

A suggestion should be made that they ought to, since the meeting is at one edge of the region. The last time they held the meeting, they had a big SPS contingent. They should contact chairs of physics departments.

They asked whether non-OSAPS members could participate. Yes, as long as they are APS members.

Can we do a geographically targeted email? What about the Prairie Section? Maybe APS could sort by zip code.

- Future Meetings *Linn Van Woerkom*

Fall 2011: Ball State (Thomas Robertson is the contact)

Spring 2012: OSU (Gordon and Linn are organizing) They are thinking about biophysics as a topic, to be held mostly in physics research building. They are using contacts among faculty to identify an after dinner speaker, and are still talking about who we should ask as speakers. Who to talk to at APS about dates? Vinaya Sathyasheelappa, Meeting Abstracts Coordinator (301)209-3266 or vinaya@aps.org.

Fall 2012: Talked to folks at UC, but they are having another conference; Kenyon can't because of Jan's sabbatical. Last meeting we talked about Wittenberg or Central State.

Spring 2013: tentative Ohio University (Ken Hicks is the contact)

Fall 2013

Spring 2014

Try to get UC for Fall 2013 or Spring 2014. It may be time to go to Michigan again. We could try Wayne State? We were there about 4 years ago. Have we ever had one at U of M Dearborn? Oakland was Fall 2004. What about Xavier University? Mo knows the chair. General agreement to that possibility; we've never been there. Michigan State, Adrian College were also mentioned. Bowling Green State University was before 2000 – Perry was in contact with them. University of Toledo was in 2000, Scott Lee as contact. Dennison is another possibility, more than 15 years ago. Where should Linn try first? Geographically, northwest ought to be next. We haven't had a meeting at Kent State in a while (2001).

Standing Committee Reports:

- Membership Committee *Herbert Jaeger*

Membership numbers have picked up a little bit compared to last fall, about the same as April. This is mostly due to a surge in student membership, 480 to about 550. We will also hear about this from our Student-Member-At-Large, Hyundeok Song. At the last meeting, about 20 names were collected, mostly students. Of those only 2 could be added because they were already a

member or had to be processed differently. They were sent an email to supply information via the web. Herbert doesn't know what happened with those. This may be the way to send them. Students get one free year through APS. Telling people probably isn't very effective; it's best to set up a terminal right here.

So you can join on line? Yes, but you have to know your APS number and password. This is for joining a section. They will quickly email a password to your account.

Is there a way of knowing how many regular APS members in the area are not members of the section? No, but Herbert will check into that.

What about a future meeting at Allegheny, as way to get members? There was a meeting at Penn-Erie that was not so good.

- Honors and Awards Committee *Robert Hengehold*

The committee met via email, selected a nominee for the Maxwell award which we will give at this meeting, Klaus Fritsch; for the Fowler Award, we selected Ernst von Meerwal who is in New Mexico at the moment. So we'll award that at an upcoming meeting. If Ernst gets to Ball State, we'll do it then, otherwise at OSU meeting. The award has the OSAPS logo on there. The price of awards has gone up but we don't do it very often.

What service merits award? In the past, being vice chair, chair elect, chair and past chair is not sufficient in itself to merit the Fowler award. If someone has sponsored a lot of meetings or something like that. We have also given award to people who have spent many years (10+) in a particular job, such as Bruce Craver who was never chair but was secretary or associate secretary for many years. Klaus was secretary, treasurer, did the chair sequence, ran a meeting here at JCU. Those are the kind of people we are looking for. We also have people who have done things but are young enough but they may yet be very active, so we have held the award (such as Elizabeth George). But it doesn't mean that if they have the award, they wouldn't come to the executive committee still. What are your thoughts regarding people who are currently active and secondly people who are young enough they might take a second position? Since all of you are potentially in this mix, what are your thoughts? (Maxwell was from Ohio Wesleyan, which is where the award got its name.) Perry for example was off the committee for some time, but then came back on the committee. Have we had a Fowler awardee from Michigan? No we have not. Being treasurer or secretary is much harder than being chair. Being chair at some times is more interesting than others. When doing by-laws, the chair had a lot of work. I'm more interested in the age thing... Kim Copland is in that situation, was secretary for 10 years, did a lot of good things for section, hosted a meeting, brought students to meeting. We will look into folks from Michigan.

What are your thoughts on getting Maxwell award twice? Seems like it's roughly 10 years of consistent service? Yes, we could do that. Have you put this process of decision-making down on paper? We are in that process, it's not yet in the duty guideline but it will be.

- Report from the Student Member at Large *Hyundeok Song*

I checked to see what students we had email addresses for; we have them for most of the graduate students but only for a few undergraduates. Hyundeok sent an email to them, and to student organizations and department heads with instructions to forward the email (about 70 percent said they couldn't do it or didn't respond). We need to figure out what method is more

efficient. In the email, he introduced himself, talked about the free trial membership, and that meeting registration is free. His suggestion to new students is to join and for current members to join a unit.

There is no unit section choice drop down on the APS application page for new students. Perry can make contact with people regarding the web site to get names of sections in a drop down and potentially units as well.

Isn't there a separate sign up for OSAPS? It's under changing preferences but for that you already have to be a member. There was some talk at unit convocation several years ago about making it opt-out, but it would cost APS more money. Student membership is \$20. There is an interest area drop down list, but it is not clear what the interest area list is.

Is there a way to get the list of student members of SPS?

Compliments were given to Hyundeok on being so active and on his report.

- Nomination Committee *Terry Sheridan*

Paul Wolf and Eric Herbst were also on the committee. We received 4 nominations, one more than we needed!

If we know the past chair will be the chair of the nominating committee, we should do this in the fall. Once you find someone for each position, it's not clear why you need someone else. If people nominated themselves, it would be one thing but when you are recruiting, filling the position is what matters.

Recommendations for elections were sent by Fred Trexler and included in the Duties document. Thanks to Terry for getting this taken care of.

- APS Councilor's Report *David Weeks*

Paul Wolf could not make the meeting, so David will give the report. The APS council is similar to this committee but writ large. We can find minutes online though they are password protected. There are very interesting discussions at the national level. David filtered out those items relevant to us. The APS membership is growing, but if unit membership doesn't also grow then your percentage drops. Units need to keep at least 2.1% to remain viable; we are at about 3%. This may not apply to sections or forums but only to divisions.

Two years ago they moved the April meeting to February to be with AAPT, but they are looking at April for convocation dates in the future which conflicts with our spring meetings. They want the convocation between the March and April meetings.

We could either move earlier in April or into May. It isn't clear when they do the scheduling – we already had our meeting scheduled when they chose this weekend. So if our meetings continue to be in April, it could be a problem. Also it is not clear if they will always have the meeting in April. We should keep an eye on this.

Why don't they use the summer instead of academic year? This is the second year in a row that there was a conflict.

Perry added to the report on council activities. The bylaw committee was asked to review a topical group on physics of climate. This is a sensitive area. We went through a process on how to process statements. Proposal was put together by two past chairs of the APS council and other high level people. Two groups came together and found a compromise. One of unique things is an addendum, one of the ways to avoid political pitfalls. "Initial areas of scientific Inquiry" all are very science oriented, avoiding any political or sociological overtones. The proposing group has accepted the committee's changes.

- Web Master's Report *Perry Yaney*

We want to update the list of awardees and put the year – Bob will also add more information. We are waiting for minutes, will make the changes and send them to Perry. We have up there reports of Techfest activities and 3 outreach activities (2009, 2010 and we are getting 2011).

II. Old business:

- OSAPS support for the U.S. Physics Olympiad Team *David Weeks*

Regarding the Physics Olympiad, the APS does support it, along the lines of \$10,000. But divisions and units may donate as well. David contacted Janet Lane for information. They start out with an $F=ma$ exam; there are about 8 Ohio and 10 Michigan schools that participate. The cost of the exam is about \$500/state. Students who do well go on to take the semi-final exam, 380 students this year, which is locally administered. 20 winners are sent to Maryland where they have travel, food and lodging expenses. Then they train, and 5 are picked from among them; those 5 also get travel and lodging. Places we could contribute: $F=ma$ exam; support an Ohio-region student to go to Maryland by paying travel costs; if they are in top 5, help pay travel costs. We could donate anonymously through APS. We could offer a travel grant to an OSAPS winner, but how would they know to apply? Often students are covered by people that know them, family or school. One of our problems would be finding out who won. One approach is a blanket donation to schools. Or each year, someone could call the national office and find out if an Ohio student is on that list.

These are high school students? Yes. Mostly in private schools? Yes or in well-off regions. A good thing would be if more schools participated. In science, most people are doing their own things; it is not so much a competition.

DW: we don't have a way to easily channel labeled money to an appropriate student. We'd have to chase it each year.

High schools are self-selected? DW: not sure, it is open to anybody. We need a group for mentoring, to improve the number of students from Ohio taking the exam. State Science Day students aren't recruited for or informed of that. Science Day is broadly based. From an OSAPS point of view, we aren't a publicity generating body.

Does each country have to have the same number of participants? 5 from each. Don't know the selection process for other countries.

How does the Olympiad recruit? There is a web site but you have to know to go to there. If there was a way to encourage top achieving physics students to stay in the region, that would be a worthwhile goal for us. That would be a long term goal, but sometimes that is the only way. Terry Sheridan made a **motion** that we do nothing, Laura Van Wormer seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

- The status of the Membership Committee *David Weeks*

We used to have one before we changed by-laws. It was more substantial in the past because we had OSAPS members tracked separately from APS members. We don't any more. Dennis Kuhl was the first member-at-large to take on membership duties.

A suggestion is to put member-at-large duties in the Duties guide rather than by-laws. David Weeks presents an outline of those duties for comment. One slight change is having a membership report fall AND spring; it used to be once a year. We've considered the fall as an immediate report, but it's not that big of a deal. It's a nice way to keep track.

Is this information we really need or can we get summary information? There's a concern about keeping sensitive information. If it is information we don't need, then we shouldn't get it. We could ask only for columns that we need.

Is there a rule on the number of times you can solicit information, outside of our immediate membership? Yes, two general mailings a year.

- Update on the status of the "Guide to the Executive Committee Duties" *David Weeks*
Dave added a cover page, a table of contents, notes for chair elect, vice chair, for members at large as we've seen, and under appointed committees.

At the end of the fall meeting when someone thanks the host, they should also ask for those who might be interested in serving. We also should have electronic calls for nominations in November before Thanksgiving, December and January. There will be a section B for the nominating committee. We also don't have something for archivist. A couple of new attachments have been added such as a sample travel grant application, a sample call for nominations and a sample membership report. Once the last bits are in, it will be sent out for one more review.

Thanks to Dave for his work on this!

- Report on the 2011 TechFest program *Perry Yaney*

TechFest had 2725 registered youth; 4900 people went through in two days. We had 73 hands-on interactive exhibits, staffed by volunteers; 29 presentations by 11 speakers; 16 workshops for teachers on STEM subjects, free to teachers, and they got continuing education credit. Perry provided a distribution shown by counties, including some from Michigan, Illinois, West Virginia and Kentucky. It was a tough year to raise money, so we were close to meeting our budget. Everything is free to guests and participants. Perry expressed heartfelt thanks to the region. This is the last year of our coverage, so he is asking for another round of support. Next year would be their 10th year. TechFest is a whole lot more than a science fair.

Any spreading to other cities? Cincinnati has shown some interest, COSI normally charges \$2000-2500 for an exhibit, but they came this year at no charge. OSAPS has been very important in keeping this afloat.

Cornel Rablau made a **motion** to continue funding at \$2,000 per year for two years; Jason Pinkney seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

III. New Business

Gordon Aubrecht thanked OSAPS for supporting Science Day prizes, which we've been doing for 15-20 years. Many judges come from the southern Ohio section of AAPT. Gordon asked members of the board to volunteer for the State Science Day. It is on May 7, starting at 7:30 a.m., judging starts at 9:00. Typically there are 130-150 projects; they choose what they want to be entered for. Physics is the 2nd largest category; they are limited to 3 choices. We give prizes at 7-9th grade and 10-12th grade levels. Typically there are many more projects at the lower grades. Someone takes charge of each, judges are partitioned – we need about 30 judges, one for each 5 projects. Judges do 5 interviews with students over an hour. Then they nominate the ones they think deserve to be looked at again. Judges go out again in groups of 2, 3 or 4 people. There is another discussion. 3 awards are given, sometimes more because of our generosity. Then a fairly large group goes out with last finalists, then comes back and votes. Sometimes we

have more than one first, second or third place. It is fun and fast-paced, advocating for ones you think are good. You are done by 11:30, so it is just a morning. We are encouraged to volunteer: you'll have fun and realize how good it is for the section. Contact Aubrecht.1@osu.edu.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Van Wormer
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