

**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, 13 April 2012, in Room 4138 of the Physics Research Building at The Ohio State University. In attendance were:

Gordon Aubrecht, Laura Van Wormer, Jason Pinkney, Roy Day, Nicholas Pike, Tom Coffey, Cornel Rablau, Mo Ahoujja, Joe Scanio (guest), Gabriela Popa, Linn Van Woerkom, Jim Sullivan (guest), Herbert Jaeger, Bob Hengehold, Perry Yaney, Terry Sheridan

Jason Pinkney presided over the meeting, calling it to order at 10:00 am, and began with introductions.

I. Business

A. Minutes approved with minor amendments.

B. Treasurer's Report: Roy Day

This is the first report after a meeting where APS handled the registration. They collected abstract, banquet and registration fees so it appears as income which it never has in the past. There was a misc charge that turned out to be money collected locally, but they never received it as income, so had to be subtracted to balance the books. Our balance has gone up about \$1500. Regarding the last page of the report, our account balance at APS has been between \$30,000 and \$40,000. According to the guidelines, we might have a problem to discuss. We give hosts a \$3000 advance, plus \$2000 for honoraria, plus \$2000 for student travel (those expenses for both meetings each year), Tech Fest \$2000, Ohio State Science Day, \$750, which is a total of \$16,750. Our income is between \$5,500-\$6,000 a year, in the form of dues from APS, and we are currently getting about \$1,000 investment income – so about \$7,000 per year. This is versus authorized commitment of about \$17,000 per year. Since our balance has been relatively constant, we haven't been dipping into our account, so in fact we are not spending that much but need to be aware that we have in some senses promised it. Why we aren't actually spending all of that – student travel has been usually \$600, the \$3000 advance for meetings sometimes is returned. It is not clear what it is intended for but some haven't spent it all. Is the advance a grant or just money to have in an account to pay bills that are ultimately covered by registration fees?

The general thoughts were that the advance usually gets paid back. Roy suggests the banquet fee should cover banquet expenses; registration fees may not cover all expenses but they should cover a substantial part of it.

At Ball State, banquet expenses came out of the advance, but banquet fees came back to us.

In the past, local organizers started collecting money about a month before the meeting, but in the new system, local organizers don't get money until the day of the meeting. As a result we may need to change what we do with the advance.

It was noted that the \$2000 for speaker honoraria weren't there a year ago, so between that and the student travel maybe at least half of those expenses should be covered by registration. Honoraria used to be paid by local organizers, but now are being paid by the section. The \$2,000 comes from \$400 x 5 speakers, though government and national lab employees don't take any. Are there costs incurred for local speakers? No, though they'd still get honoraria. Travel expenses for speakers are paid by meeting organizers.

Roy: we haven't been dipping into our account over past years, so maybe we are ok, but we do need to make clear to meeting organizers that the \$3000 advance should come back to us.

Herbert Jaeger points out that in Hints for Hosts it says local meeting can get up to \$3000 but that didn't include student travel. Gordon Aubrecht remembers previous treasurer talking about APS saying we have too much money in our accounts, but Bob Hengehold thinks they were concerned at one time, but now they are happy we have money.

Let's remember to tell future hosts about Hints for Hosts. There is a question about what exactly it says about whether \$3000 is grant or we expect it back. It was also noted that the Hints for Hosts has been redone in the past several years.

C. Chair's report: Jason Pinkney – comments later under New Business

D. Meeting reports

1. Spring 2012 Current Meeting Report: Gordon Aubrecht

There are 107 preregistered. Many local people said they were coming but didn't preregister so that number is expected to increase considerably. There were 25 posters, 30 contributed papers in 5 sessions, largest is nuclear with 9, followed by physics education with 7. Due to a family emergency, one of our invited speakers won't be here. Instead a talk will be by Michael Poirier of OSU. After the after-dinner talk tonight Gary White of SPS is speaking tonight; this is through SPS.

There were questions about how SPS is integrated into this meeting? Do they have their own table etc? Gordon: I'm assuming they are, they haven't asked for much. They are hoping to get a small amount of money from OSAPS to help

toward student sleeping space funding. Not sure if students who've requested travel funding will be taking advantage of that.

Were paper registrations also accepted? Not before today, but at the registration table today that will start. Now ALL money goes to APS.

Gordon: part of the reason we've had trouble with abstract fees is APS assumed no more than 1 would be submitted per person; couldn't do it then but called and asked for it and they did it. So meeting chairs, make sure you have that option. Now is there an option to pay for more than 1? NOW there is because I requested it.

Laura: Update Hints for Hosts to be able to have multiple abstracts paid by one person

Is 107 what you anticipated? It was larger than anticipated, though it was also remembered that when meetings are held in large places in the center of state you can get over 200 registered.

2. Fall 2011 Past Meeting Final Report: Ball State University – Jason discussed a report provided by Thom Robertson, who couldn't be here.

The theme was Applied Physics, and there were 30 posters, 30 contributed papers, 5 contributed talks. They had problems with registration last time, with a new system.

3. Fall 2012 Next Meeting Report: Jason shared an email from local chair Gavin Lawes at Wayne State University, who couldn't be here today.

Cornel Rablau is in close contact with Gavin. The meeting will be on Oct. 5&6 at the conference center at Wayne State. The theme is frontiers of nanoscience and nanotechnology. Everything is on track for this meeting.

Is booking the conference center a cost? Yes, it is a transfer of money between department and conference center. However it was noted that we haven't had large expenses for that as it is usually held internally.

4. Future Meetings: Cornel Rablau

Fall 2012: Wayne State University, local contact Gavin Lawes, October 5,6

Spring 2013: Ohio University, local contact Ken Hicks

Fall 2013: University of Cincinnati, local contact Joseph Scanio

Mo Ahoujja has been talking with Xavier University and Cornel will contact Scott Lee at University of Toledo. One good place to start is if you have assistant professors going up for tenure, it is an extra incentive....! You can also look at

where meetings have been, if they haven't done it for 10 years, you can make them feel guilty.

Any leads and contacts are helpful.

5. APS Convocation: Cornel Rablau

He will be there next Thursday, trying to do Congressional visits as well. He has been in contact with Michigan congress people. Have had some limited help from APS. Three people are going from Michigan. That's how APS wants to handle it. APS sends talking points; they are not supposed to advocate for personal priorities. It will be about the science budget, NSF, etc.

Roy Day will also be attending but can't make the Thursday meeting. He will be there for APS convention, and plans to speak to Mike Stevens and Don Wise about how meetings are organized and expenses are done.

II. Standing Committee Reports

A. Membership Committee: Herbert Jaeger

In terms of the number of members, we are inching our way back up, with 25 more members overall than last fall. The changes seem to be on the junior member side. We should continue what we are doing. Herbert noted that technically he is no longer on committee, and will hand the duties over to Tom Coffey, our new member-at-large.

B. Honors and Awards: Bob Hengehold

At the last meeting, we talked at length about awards and the nomination situation. At this point, Bob wants us to be aware that he is looking for candidates for the Wayne State meeting, and reminds us that we tend to look regionally, not asking someone to travel from Cincinnati to Detroit for example.

Bob had the pleasure of presenting the Fowler Award to University of Akron's Ernst Von Meerwall at the previous meeting at Ball State University, and will have the pleasure of presenting the Fowler Award at this meeting to Howard Jackson of the University of Cincinnati.

C. Nomination Committee -- Election Results: Mo Ahoujja for David Weeks

We congratulate Gabriela Popa for being elected Vice Chair and Tom Coffey for being elected member at large.

Of 1502 emails sent, 227 members voted (15.1%)

Of 141 paper ballots sent, 17 voted (12.1%)

Total members = 1643, and 14.7% voted (perhaps this should be total number of ballots sent, since we only have about 1510 members)

In answer to a question, 15% seems to be typical and perhaps even a good response rate.

Congratulations to the new members!

D. APS Councilor's Report: Jason Pinkney for Paul Wolf

No new information, so nothing to report

E. Student Member at Large Report: Nicholas Pike

Nicholas provided a summary sheet that shows basic trends, broken down into graduate and undergraduate. There was a slight downturn at the last meeting, by 2.5% but according to new numbers just presented, we are back to where we were a year ago. The numbers for this report come from the member's report.

Discussion arose as to the cost and benefits for students. Their first year is free; after that they have to pay, but the cost is reduced significantly. Some opined that there isn't a benefit, though others mentioned the job services and possibly that one has to be a member to present. Regarding presentations, it was clarified that a member has to submit the abstract but not give the actual presentation. The example of the British IOP was raised, which gives free memberships as long as they are students (not sure if that includes graduate students).

Support was expressed for having APS do adopt a similar policy. Several benefits were mentioned: it helps keep track of addresses, keeps them practicing professional behavior. Those attending the APS convention next week mentioned that they could bring this idea forward.

Are we doing anything proactively at this meeting to sign up students? We used to pass around a sign-up sheet, but we can't do that any longer because registration has to go through APS. Certainly we can't have just local members of OSAPS.

F. Webmaster's report: Perry Yaney

Again there was difficulty getting information about the web site and flyer in advance. We also had trouble this year because the meeting wasn't up on the APS web site. When contacted, they put it up immediately. Names and member information etc come from APS so if you notice a problem, you need to correct it with them. Perry doesn't have that control. He could put up a pictures, such as a picture of the Fowler Award, if that is provided.

III. New Business

A. State Science Day: Gordon Aubrecht

It is coming soon – May 5. Gordon would appreciate volunteers to judge. It takes about a morning; you have to be here before 8, and are usually done by noon. It is a lot of fun. You get a chance to talk to really bright kids. It is very worthwhile because you want to leave them with a positive attitude. Gordon noted that most judges come from Southern Ohio section, but some from APS. Try it if you haven't done it!

Gordon expresses continuing appreciation to OSAPS for financial support.

A motion was made by Linn Van Woerkom to authorize from \$600 up to \$900 for State Science Day, was seconded and approved.

B. Tech Fest: Perry Yaney

It was the 10th anniversary, and we had the largest group of registered youth, 3309, plus adults which brought the total to about 6000 people. Thanks to Dayton Amateur Radio Association, there were FM radio kits that were assembled under the supervision of ham operators. It was great to see the happiness on their faces when they get it to work. We received lots of positive comments. We've had robotic welders, Segways the kids can ride, a Wright brothers simulator and an F15 simulator.

One of the supporters, The Physics of Soccer, has a great exhibit. There are also museums and AFIT among the supporters. The OSAPS support is appreciated and we would appreciate if the committee would continue the support which has been at the level of \$2000/year for 2 years.

A question was raised about the total cost: about \$55,000. Getting funding is a real battle. It was a surprise that we managed in spite of the downturn in the economy.

Linn Van Woerkom moves to support TechFest at the level of \$2000/yr for 2 years. The motion was seconded and approved.

As a result of the TechFest discussion, the question arose as to whether sponsors for OSAPS meetings are allowed. In the past we've had them, but not for the last few meetings. The opinion was that there were no new rules about that. So for future meetings, finding sponsors is a possibility. Previous sponsors have included local businesses or industry, book companies. We used to have a Teach-Spin table that would be set up in the hall. The sponsor might ask to have logos that might be on the web page and packet materials in return for funding. It was emphasized that you need to contact them early. The process often takes time.

C. APS Diversity Representative: Jason Pinkney

Jason was contacted by Ted Hodapp, a physics professor at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN, and current Director of Education and Diversity at APS. He is trying to contact sections about possible activities to increase diversity at future meetings. They have done things such as have a person chat with the Executive Committee, have a plenary talk about diversity in physics, or a session on a diversity topic. The possibility of diversity as a theme for a meeting arose, though no one was sure how that would work. Another suggestion was having a panel, though faculty might be more interested than students.

It was suggested that someone should talk to a section who has done this in the past. Jason will continue to pursue this. Looking at our membership page, we only have gender information. Someone needs to talk to APS about how we are supposed to present that kind of data.

A motion was made to invite him to an OSAPS executive committee meeting to give short presentation. The motion was seconded and passed. Linn will pursue this for the next meeting at which Ted is available.

IV. Future Business

Review Duties document and Hints for Hosts.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am.