

# **Minutes (Unapproved) of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society**

## **Executive Committee**

**Bowling Green State University, 2 May 1997**

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, 2 May 1997 in the Town Room of the University Union. The meeting was called to order by Chair Don Schuele at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Barbara Andereck, Larry Becker, Bob Boughton, Kim Coplin, Paul Errington, Greg Hassold, Bob Hengehold, Graciela Lacueva, Scott Lee, George Miner, Dave Ober, Roger Rollins, Bahram Roughani, Don Schuele, and Paul Scholten.

### **1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 1, 1996.**

The minutes of the Fall 1996 meeting of the Executive Committee of OS/APS were approved as submitted.

### **2. Local Chairs Report, Spring 1997 - Bob Boughton**

Bob B. distributed the preliminary report for the meeting and noted that the meeting topic is "Nonlinear Optics and Ultrafast Phenomena". Bob B. reported that there were 110 preregistrations for the meeting, and that they had received 9 student support requests. Fifty seven papers are scheduled to be presented in 6 sessions. There are 93 paid banquet reservations. Funding for the meeting totaled \$2950; the sources are detailed in the preliminary report. Bob B. reported that the cost to the BGSU physics department would be approximately \$1000. Bob B. noted they have not yet looked in detail at the total expenses, but they plan to ask for some financial support from the Ohio Section.

### **3. Secretary's Report - Kim Coplin**

Kim asked for clarification on posting the minutes on the Web page. It was agreed that the minutes should be distributed by email to the Executive Committee for initial corrections before posting on the Web page. It should be noted on the minutes that they are unapproved until approval at the next Executive Committee meeting. The treasurer's report should not be included in the Web posting. There was a question as to how often the Web page is looked at. Roger replied there is currently no counter on the Web page.

### **4. Treasurer's Report - Roger Rollins**

### **5. Final Chair's Report, Fall 1996 - Roger Rollins**

Roger distributed the meeting report and noted that although it was Halloween weekend at Ohio University, only one person had their car towed!. More than 200 people attended the meeting, and 152 people attended the banquet. The total expenses for the meeting

were \$6900 (\$8300 - \$1400 in abstract fees). The cost to OS/APS was \$1747. Roger pointed out that one speaker did not ask for travel expenses and that money was saved by doing 2 bulk mailings instead of 1. Paul S. asked for the recommended lead time for bulk mailings. Roger responded that bulk mailings can sit at each post office for a while. Bob H. and Roger suggested that 4 weeks was an appropriate lead time. The Executive Committee members could email the local chairs when they have received the meeting announcement. The local chairs can also mail the announcement to themselves. These measures would provide a check on whether the announcements have been received. It was again noted that first class mailings are one of the major meeting expenses. It was noted that the Fall 1991 meeting held at Wright State/AFIT was done at not cost to the section. Bob H. noted that the key was that the speakers accepted no money.

#### **6. Local Chair's Report, Fall 1997 - Paul Scholten**

The meeting will be October 10-11, 1997, and the topic is "Curriculum Development Beyond the Introductory Course". Speakers will include Roger Rollins and Ron Stoner on the CUPS project, Dick Peterson from Bethel College on Advanced Optics, and Larry Marshall on Contemporary Lab Experiments in Astronomy. The last talk on Friday afternoon will be given by a group of Miami faculty who will talk on their advanced lab development which has been funded by NSF and ILI. Paul asked for feedback on the multiple speaker format. He asked if the committee felt that 3 twenty minute talks would be appropriate instead of one longer talk. Don replied that he felt there would be no problem with this since it would be a good lead-in to the open house. Paul also announced that the after dinner speaker would be Gene Hecht. The presentation will include optics demos with kits available to the audience.

The Miami meeting will be a joint meeting with the Southern Ohio Section of AAPT. Jim Poth (Miami) and Bill Ploughe (OSU) are planning the AAPT component of the meeting. Paul brought up a potential problem in that the SOS/AAPT meeting registration is \$5/\$10 while the OS/APS registration for the same meeting is \$35. Bob H. commented that we had discussed this previously and decided to ignore the difference in registration fees. Paul also had a question about timers for the meeting. Bob H. said it makes sense for Paul to take the timers back to Miami with him and that they are just basic minute minders. It was noted that the local chairs should just pass on the timers.

Paul asked where he should get the address labels for mailings. Larry responded that he will receive 2 sets of labels from the section. Don also commented that email can be sent to members. Roger suggested that the person at the national APS in charge of abstracts can help with emailings. In response to a question about lead time, it was agreed that two weeks before the abstract deadline was appropriate.

#### **7. Local Chair's Report, Spring 1998 - Paul Errington and Dave Ober**

The Spring 1998 meeting will be held at Ball State University. It will be a joint meeting with the Indiana AAPT. Discussion was focused on the dates of the meeting. Dave and Paul have reserved rooms for May 1-2, 1998 at the new Alumni Center at Ball State. This

center will be convenient for the Friday sessions because it has parking available. Saturday sessions will be held on campus. The question as to whether the date should be changed was raised. It was pointed out that April 12 is Easter weekend and April 19 is the OSU national APS/AAPT meeting. Barbara added that Gordon Aubrecht had raised the concern of conflict with the APS/AAPT meeting. Bob H. commented that he feels the OS/APS meeting will draw its own crowd and attendance will not be a problem. Greg asked if it would be possible to have a reception at the national meeting if OS/APS did not hold a spring meeting in 1998. Paul S. asked if the Ball State meeting would draw people from Indiana who do not regularly attend other OS/APS meetings. George asked if we should consider changing the Ball State meeting. His concerns were that the meeting is outside Ohio (the last meeting outside Ohio did not have large attendance) and that people outside the state of Ohio are not used to coming to OS/APS meetings. Paul and Dave responded that Ball State will host a meeting of the Indiana AAPT in Spring 1998 regardless of whether it is a joint meeting with OS/APS. Because of this, they are not interested in hosting a Fall 1998 meeting. Don added that one incentive for students to attend might be the "Best Paper" competition. Don felt and it was agreed that we should go forward with the May 1-2 dates.

Dave and Paul said the topic of the meeting that they have been discussing is "Advances in Space Science". They hope to get someone associated with the Mars Lander program to participate.

## **8. Future Meetings - Greg Hassold and Bahram Roughani**

It was pointed out that the APS Centenary meeting will be March 20-26, 1999. Don asked if that should be the year OS/APS does not have a spring meeting. Bahram noted that one problem is that GMI is out of state. Dave asked if there was an analysis of why the last out of state meeting did not work well. Barbara and Bob H. responded that the topic was not particularly interesting.

The Spring 1999 is scheduled to be held at the GMI Engineering and Management Institute. A preliminary report was distributed. Greg noted the theme will be "Industrial and Applied Physics". They hope to have speakers from industry and NIST and will get word out to Michigan schools to help attendance. Bahram said that the meeting will be scheduled around a meeting at the Center for Materials Research at Michigan State University which is usually around April 5-15. There might be possible speaker overlaps. Bob H. suggested keeping the dates as far as possible from the Atlanta meeting dates. Graciela suggested having a job fair for students with local industries, and George also suggested inviting Ed Goldin, the AIP employment officer. George noted it would be a good idea to send announcements of earlier meetings to people in Indiana and Michigan so they start to consider attending OS/APS meetings. Barbara suggested advertising for the Ball State meeting at the Miami meeting and commented this should be in the "Hints for Hosts". Bob H. and Roger agreed that it should be standard practice to have handouts advertising the next meeting at the current meeting.

Don mentioned that he had received a memo from the Ohio Section AAPT representative requesting that OS/APS avoid their October meeting dates. Their preferred meeting date is the second weekend in October.

### **9. Membership Committee Report - Larry Becker and Graciela Lacueva**

A handout detailing Ohio Section membership from 1991 to 1997 was distributed. Larry noted that the count for labels for the Spring 1997 meeting was 1302 which doesn't include the local list of 404. He noted there is a small overlap (3) of people on the local list who are also on the national list. Bob H. asked the percentage needed to maintain our APS Section status. The answer was given as 3%. Don noted that at the recent Unit Convocation meeting the Ohio Section percentage was given as 3.2% while Texas is at 4% and New England is at 6%. Don also commented that the 3% is based on the totality of APS memberships while he feels it should be based on active membership. It was noted that the Ohio Section numbers have gone up while the APS membership numbers have gone down. George pointed out that from 1993 - 1997, the Ohio Section has done quite well going from 2.14% to our current standing of ~3%. Don also added that because of fiscal reasons people may be choosing local meetings over national meetings. Scott mentioned that since it is time to receive APS bills that Executive Committee members should encourage their own department members to check off the appropriate box and join the Ohio Section. Don added that Graciela has written a mailing that can be sent out to encourage membership. George said that this should be sent to Ohio and the five surrounding states, and Barbara added that the message should include comments about the upcoming meetings in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan.

### **10. Honors and Awards Committee - Bob Hengehold**

Bob H. announced that the Maxwell Award will be given at the banquet to Charlie Wilson. He also noted that he has a list of 4-5 others for the Maxwell Award and that this information will be sent to the Honors and Awards Committee so they can be rank ordered. Bob H. also plans to put the awards nomination form on the Web page. He hopes to receive nominations for the Fowler award. It may be appropriate to give another Maxwell award at the Miami meeting.

Bob H. also asked about the plaque that is given to the awardees. He noted that the plaques have varied and asked whether the plaque should be standardized and include a picture of Maxwell or Fowler. The Executive Committee agreed that the plaque should be standardized. It was also suggested that to keep costs down, more than one plaque could be purchased at a time.

### **11. APS Council Report - George Miner for Perry Yaney**

George distributed a report from Perry on the April 19, 1997, APS Council Meeting. It was reported that we have lost the battle regarding the number of broadcast emails that the Section can send. George commented that maybe we should keep our own email list. Roger responded that it would be a fair job to keep the list maintained. Don reported from

the Unit Convocation meeting that a list of emails of ~74% of the Ohio Section membership is maintained. This might be a possibility for future free emails.

The dates of the APS Centenary meeting in Atlanta are March 20-26, 1999. The section has been invited to contribute a display on Ohio physics and/or some kind of session. It was noted that if we want to do either of these two, we need to get move forward. It was also noted in Perry's report that APS hopes the Sections will continue the celebration throughout the year. George noted that APS is making a banner celebrating the Centenary. The Michelson-Morley experiment is included but there is no reference to location. Perry is trying to get the location information added to the banner.

It was reported that Ron Winters has spoken with Tom Greenslade of Kenyon regarding a display. Don distributed a budget from Ron. There was a question as to exactly what would constitute this display (photos or actual equipment). Kim responded that based on information from Ron that it is photos. Bob H. commented that it seems as though the national APS is discouraging sessions while encouraging displays. Don commented that something should be added to the display that outlines the history of the Ohio Section. Bob H. responded that he and Perry could be responsible for putting this history together. It was also noted that this display could be passed around to schools and displayed at the fall and spring OS/APS meetings. George asked if additional contributions other than those of Tom Greenslade had been considered and suggested a letter should be sent to department chairs asking for other items. Don responded that he knows that there is a replica of the Michelson-Morley experiment at Case Western that could be a part of the display. Bob H. asked the Executive Committee members had other suggestions. Barbara commented that asking department chairs for input was a good idea. Larry asked if Tom Greenslade had other suggestions. Bob B. suggested Nobel Laureates from Ohio. Bob H. noted that building the display would require nice pictures and other materials. Roger noted that the proposed cost is about as much as one meeting and that contributions from local industry might help. Bob H. noted that he felt the display was a good idea, but an Ohio Section sponsored session was probably not a good idea. He also said that since he and Perry are Centenary representatives that they will step up and take charge of this task.

Roger Rollins moved that:

"The Ohio Section will support a display for the APS Centenary Celebration at a cost up to \$3000."

The motion was second by George Miner and passed with a unanimous vote.

Don commented that if the Michelson-Morley replica were included as part of the display that it may be possible to obtain alumni support. It was also noted that the list for recommended speakers for the Centennial has gone to department chairs, and that this request could possibly be included in the next email from the section

## **12. Nominating Committee Report - Barbara Andereck**

Barbara reported that all elected officers have agreed to continue in their positions and that Gordon Aubrecht (OSU-Marion) will become the vice-chair.

### **13. Report on Unit Convocation - Don Schuele**

It was reported that Alan Bromley spoke at the meeting and that his talk focused mainly on politics. One of the biggest discussions of the meeting was centered on electronic publishing which is becoming a major problem. One of the major sources of income for the APS is library subscriptions that generate roughly \$4 million/year. Although the number of library subscriptions has declined, the journal costs have increased so much that there has been a net increase in income. However, it has been decided that library subscription rates will have no more increases. One problem with electronic publishing is back issues which will probably be on CD-ROM. One question is what will replace the journal income. Don also reported that APS has a slush fund of approximately \$48 million. He also noted that the Campaign for Physics has raised nearly \$4 million which is mainly for education focusing on primary school teachers. Don reported that the revenue last year was \$29.1 million and the expenses were \$28 million. It was also noted that the journal budget is expected to go down by ~50%. Don commented that this decrease is evident by the decline in number of journals on the shelf. Bob H. said that few of today's students use journals; if they can't get it electronically, they don't bother. Barbara asked how much income page charges generate. Don responded that 76% of publication income is from libraries while only 9% is generated by page charges. He also reported that the main loss in revenue is in public affairs (\$2.2 million) while the investment income is \$5.5 million. Roger asked how much of the cost of the journal is in paper and printing, noting that editing costs will still exist. If journals are not refereed, he noted we will be left with a useless information explosion. It was also pointed out by Don that 21,000 articles are submitted per year. Thirty percent of those are from the U.S. with seventy percent coming from outside the U.S. Thirty four percent of the submitted articles are from Western Europe.

Don also reported that there was a session in which a review of each unit was given by the unit representative. He noted that the Ohio Section record of having 2 meetings per year was good; other sections often have just one meeting.

It was reported that APS is encouraging units to submit displays versus sessions for the Centenary meeting. Don asked Barrie Ripin if we can ask for support for a display. The response was yes. The March meeting was also discussed, and it was noted that 4300 papers were contributed to this year's March meeting.

Don noted that he had discussed the use of electronic mail noting that we're free to do what we want with our membership. One of the concerns of the APS regarding electronic mail is junk mail. George commented that the Computer Science version of AAPT has the option of receiving junk mail. Members can select whether or not they receive junk mail.

It was also pointed out that there are student poster sessions at the March and April APS meetings.

#### **14. Old Business - Don Schuele**

Roger reminded the Executive Committee members that OS/APS has a policy to pay for one half of the state science prizes that are awarded by the SOS/AAPT. Over the last two years, this has amounted to \$320.

The "Best Paper" Competition was discussed next. Don noted that one way to involve younger paper on the Executive Committee would be to include them on a best paper committee. Paul S. noted that he feels this idea has a lot of positive aspects, but he also has reservations. His reservations include the necessity of having each judge hear all talks and the authorship of the paper, noting that faculty will do a lot of editing. He also added that this would add pressure to the Ohio Section meetings. Don responded that students would be asked to submit papers three weeks in advance and this will probably hold down the number of entrants.

Roger asked if the object of this competition is to encourage student attendance. He pointed out that \$500 is budgeted for student travel, but this money is rarely used. Bahram and Roger agreed that this competition might place unwanted pressure on students. Graciela added that she feels that students now think just going to OS/APS meetings is a good thing. If there is competition, there will be something more prestigious and simply attending the meeting will no longer be special. Bob H. agreed with Paul's reservations, but also commented that students can choose to participate. He felt it is worth trying. George suggested trying it once, for example, as the OS/APS Centenary Prize. It was added by Roger that picking the best paper might not be easy since paper topics cover such a wide range. After this discussion, Don suggested that we think about the idea and come back to it later.

Don also reported on his request to companies for support. He is about ready to begin the solicitation process. He noted that including a 5013C letter from APS allows participating organizations to deduct their contributions. He currently has a list of over 100 companies to contact, and he plans to send 5 letters/week. Greg asked if letters for meeting support have to include the 5013C document. The response was no. Don reported that he would have feedback for the committee on this project next fall.

#### **15. New Business**

Barbara reported that Gordon Aubrecht would like to do a nuclear physics workshop at the Miami OS/APS meeting. He anticipates needing \$500 in support. The cost per person is \$25 and includes a wall chart and handout. Barbara asked if the Section would like to support this. Roger reminded the committee that we have an income of \$6000 and we currently authorize approximately \$3500 per meeting for two meetings. Bob H. commented that the workshop would be mainly for high school teachers, and that often the teachers come to the meeting only for the workshop. Roger suggested giving \$250

and asking Gordon to get other support elsewhere. He also commented it might be possible for Gordon to get support from the national APS.

Roger Rollins moved that:

"The Ohio Section will support half the cost (\$250) of the nuclear physics workshop proposed by Gordon Aubrecht for the Miami meeting."

The motion was seconded by Paul Scholten and passed unanimously. Roger will notify Gordon Aubrecht of the committee's decision.

## **16. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20.

Respectively Submitted,

Kimberly A. Coplin