

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

Executive Committee

Kettering University, 30 April 1999

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, April 30, 1999, in the Senate Conference Room of the Academic Building on the Kettering University campus. The meeting was called to order by Chair Gordon Aubrecht at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Gordon Aubrecht, Kim Coplin, Bruce Craver, Greg Hassold, Bob Hengehold, Graciela Lacueva, Scott Lee, Roger Rollins, Bahram Roughani, Don Schuele, Brad Trees, Ron Winters, and Perry Yaney.

Gordon opened the meeting with the remark that "it's been an interesting year".

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 16, 1998.

Scott Lee moved that the minutes of the Fall 1998 meeting of the Executive Committee of OS/APS be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Graciela Lacueva and unanimously approved.

2. Local Chair's Report, Spring 1999 – Greg Hassold and Bahram Roughani

The local chairs reported that they had 70 preregistrations for the meeting. There are 23 contributed papers and 13 posters. Bahram and Greg commented that they were disappointed with the low attendance and that they were considering switching some of the sessions to smaller rooms. Bahram reported that the first mailing went to 3500 people including several in industry to try to raise sponsors and the second mailing went to 1600 people on a more traditional list. Kettering picked up the cost of the mailings. Scott and Bob commented that Bahram and Greg had done a great job getting information about the meeting out to people and that they should be pleased with the 70 preregistrations. They noted that low attendance numbers can happen with Ohio meetings especially those held in the geographic corners of the state. Bahram stated they had picked the after dinner speaker from the Centennial list but had yet to receive the expected financial support. It was noted that this would be discussed later in the meeting.

3. Henley Report Discussion

Bunny Clark joined the committee for this discussion by speakerphone. Bunny said she feels Sections play a strong role in APS especially with respect to outreach. Sections provide opportunities for APS to allow local people including high school teachers and students to participate. She has long felt it is silly not to let Section representatives have a vote on APS Council. The charge of the Henley committee was to reduce the number of

APS Councilors. The actions of the committee include the suggestion to eliminate Section representatives on Council. Bunny feels this send the wrong signal - that Sections are "not worthy". APS membership is 44,000 while Section membership is ~10,000, thus Sections comprise nearly 25% of the APS membership. Bunny also commented that Gordon's letter in response to the Henley report should go to APS officers and that it is time for APS to eliminate or to embrace Sections. She also noted that some APS Divisions are losing Councilors when their membership numbers get too low. The Henley proposal gives each Division one councilor. It is expensive and difficult to have 80 people at Council meetings. Bunny noted that the APS is currently run by the officers with everything being orchestrated in separate meetings by the Executive Board. Although this is more efficient, it doesn't allow for much input. Gordon asked Bunny if she foresees a satisfactory resolution to effective governance and reduction of the number of representatives. Bunny responded that she expects unhappiness from division since they will be losing 3 or their 4 councilors.

Following Bunny's comments, Gordon distributed copies of the letter from the APS Sections to Dr. Friedman and the final version of the "hub and spoke" proposal to the Executive Committee.

4. Secretary's Report – Kim Coplin and Bruce Craver

Kim commented that she had received a copy of the latest APS Council minutes noting that one of the recommendations of the Henley committee was that the Council minutes be sent to Sections soon after the meeting. Bruce said that they dates for the Fall 1999 OS/APS meeting on the APS calendar are wrong and that he has not yet received approval for the Spring 2000 (Cincinnati) meeting dates.

5. Treasurer's Report - Roger Rollins and Brad Trees

The treasurer's report was distributed and discussed.

Bruce asked about the abstract fee commenting that the committee needs to confirm whether abstracts are actually published by APS. It was agreed by the Executive Committee that this needs to be clarified, and Perry will check on this issue at the Council meeting. Bob commented that it is very important to some people to have an abstract published especially in terms of fulfilling contractual obligations. There was a lengthy discussion among the Executive Committee about this issue and no one was certain whether the abstracts were being published in paper form. It was also unclear as to whether the OS/APS was being charged by national APS for abstract publication. Brad noted that the last abstract fee appeared for the BSU meeting. Ron reminded the committee that APS had promised 3-4 years ago to publish the abstracts in December. Ron also said it is important that Section meeting details and abstracts be published. Roger agreed that we need an archival method of keeping abstracts. Roger will check with Peter about the abstract fees for the Akron meeting. He noted that APS used to deduct the abstract fee from our national account but it doesn't appear as though this has been done in the past year. Roger outlined the two problems 1) there needs to be an

archive of meeting minutes and abstracts and 2) if APS is not charging the Ohio Section then we should not be charging individuals an abstract fee. Bahram noted that he would like to notify those presenting at this meeting when to expect the abstracts to be published. If they will not be published in paper form, he will need to refund their abstract fee.

Ron Winters moved that:

Perry should determine the status of publication of meeting minutes and abstracts by APS. If print copies are not available in December or some other issue of the APS Bulletin, the Executive Committee chair should poll the members as to the appropriate action.

The motion was seconded by Scott Lee and unanimously approved.

After the motion, there was more discussion of this issue regarding the value of abstract publication and how to refund abstract fees if they are not published. Perry commented that abstracts are important for public disclosure of one's work, and Ron emphasized the importance of archiving the meeting Epitome. Bruce noted he had not recently sent in meeting minutes to APS and questioned if anyone else had.

Greg Hassold moved that:

For this meeting, abstract fees should be refunded and for future meetings there should be no charge.

Ron Winters seconded the motion.

Bob Hengehold introduced a friendly amendment to this motion:

If APS is not charging OS/APS for abstract publication, then we will refund individual abstract fees. The action of the OS/APS should depend on what Perry finds out.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Perry agreed to contact Judy Franz or Barrie Ripin as soon as possible.

6. Final Chair's Report, Fall 1998 – Gordon Aubrecht for Peter Henriksen

The Minutes of the 1998 Fall Meeting held at the University of Akron were distributed.

7. Local Chair's Report, Fall 1999 – Bob Hengenold

Bob distributed the tentative meeting program and noted that this meeting will celebrate the APS Centennial as well as the 60th anniversary of OS/APS. All four speakers lined up for the meeting are APS fellows and two of the speakers (Ramsey and Bloombergen) are Nobel Prize winners. The after dinner talk will be given by Tom Greenslade and the OS/APS Centennial exhibit will be on display for the meeting. Bob brought up the issue

of APS financial support for this meeting and commented that it is frustrating because it is not clear what APS is willing to pay for. Perry clarified this saying that APS wants the money to be used to promote local, public awareness of the event. APS would like the Centennial celebration to be made known to the local government and community. Bob felt this would be fairly easy to implement and will submit an electronic copy of the meeting outline and a tentative press release plan to Gordon. Gordon will then contact Judy Franz with a formal request for the \$1500 allotted to the OS.

Scott asked about the status of the history of the Ohio Section and commented that there is a historian from U. of Toledo who might be interested in being a part of this project. Bob mentioned he has contacted an archivist who will archive material but will not write a history. He also noted he has spreadsheets showing OS/APS officers from 1970 to present. Bob expressed interest in talking with Scott's contact at Toledo to try to move the OS history project forward.

8. Local Chair's Report, Spring 2000 –

The local chair's were unable to attend this meeting. Gordon communicated that the topic is Bose-Einstein Condensation and that the dates are May 5 – 6. These dates are not yet approved, but it is hoped that they will be.

9. Local Chair's Report, Fall 2000 – Scott Lee

Scott reported that the local chair is Al Compaan and that plans for the meeting are moving forward. The topic will be Photovoltaics and the dates will be sometime in mid-October.

10. Local Chair's Report, Spring 2001 –

This meeting will be held at Kent State University. Gordon had tried unsuccessfully to contact Dave Allender. He did manage to speak with the secretary and she indicated someone from KSU will attend the next Executive Committee meeting.

11. Local Chair's Report, Fall 2001 – Kim Coplin

This meeting will be at Denison University. The topic has not been decided.

12. Local Chair's Report, Spring 2002 –

This meeting will be held at Youngstown State University and the topic will be "photon induced processes".

13. Local Chair's Report, Fall 2002 –

Ohio State University is committed to hosting this meeting.

14. Other Future Meetings –

There were no ideas for future meetings presented at this time.

15. Centennial Exhibit (final report) – Bob Hengehold and Perry Yaney

Perry and Bob distributed the final report and noted that the \$708 on the expense report was the cost to transform 2 display booths into 1 booth. They also reported that some of Tom Greenslade's expenses had been paid by Kenyon and that Don had arranged for the shipping through Case Western. Perry noted he charged 2 of the 4 days he attended the meeting to OS/APS. Bob and Perry commented that overall they felt the exhibit went very well and that Tom Greenslade was very gracious. Bob noted that the Michelson-Morley display was significant to attract people to the exhibit. Don said he had to make a new base for the Michelson-Morley display to avoid horrendous shipping costs. Bob and Perry were not able to put the exhibit up until Sunday and Bob took care of taking the exhibit down and shipping it back to AFIT. Don pointed out that the extra shipping charge was probably due to workers' overtime noting that this would be the case if the shipment arrived after 2 p.m.

16. Membership Committee - Graciela Lacueva

The current OS/APS membership count is 1196 which is up from last year. Greg mentioned that mailings to several on the local list had been returned. He will get a list of these names and a list of meeting attendees to Graciela.

17. Nominating Committee - Scott Lee

The candidate for Executive Committee vice-chair is Bahram Roughani. Bruce will send the new list of officers to APS after the election.

18. Honors and Awards Committee - Bob Hengehold

A list of previous Maxwell and Fowler award recipients and an award nomination form were distributed. Bob will get the nomination form and award descriptions to Roger for addition to the OS/APS Web page. Bob noted he has reviewed records from the past 20 years to see who has served the section, and he would like to make several awards at the Fall 1999 meeting. Gordon asked if the Section should be more active in nominating APS Fellows. Bob responded he hasn't pursued this yet, noting that Divisions and Forums can nominate individuals for this award. We can encourage OS members to be nominated through these routes. Perry will check on the procedure for fellow nomination at the APS level. Roger suggested that Bob add the year of the award on the list of prior awardees and Perry added it should also include why the award was given. Bob will update the list and distribute it electronically.

19. Election changes discussion

The ad-hoc committee chaired by Scott Lee reported to the Executive Committee at the last meeting. Since that time the OS membership has been contacted. The responses (15 to Scott and 2 to Gordon) seemed to favor email ballots. The by-laws for the OS and Southeastern Section were distributed. A discussion of the election procedure and possible changes followed.

Perry said we can continue to go with one nominee but he feels APS is encouraging us to make the process more visible and to promote write-in candidates. It was also noted that people who responded to email obviously have email and that the national office reports that 20% of the APS members do not have email which will be problematic if email balloting is implemented. Gordon commented that a discussion of this issue is needed as the OS by-laws will need to be changed. Perry said the national APS has given approval to include electronic balloting. Bob offered to send out language regarding changes to the by-laws as part of the AFIT meeting announcement. Ron mentioned that there could be problems such as individuals voting twice with electronic balloting. Scott responded that the national office will help implement electronic voting to attempt to avoid these problems. Bahram suggested that we try a combination of email and regular mail for 3 years then eliminate the regular mail. Scott commented that he feels the national office will not go for an email only method. Perry stated that APS has hired a professional balloting company and he assumes this assistance will be available to all units. The history of the current voting procedure was described by Ron. He stated that Section felt it was important that the people who attend the meetings have input in determining who runs the Section. Bruce encouraged a method that would have one paper ballot included with a meeting mailing and Bob agreed this may be the easiest technique. However, Gordon felt email would be an easier method. Roger's opinion was that voting should be done totally by mail.

After more discussion, the first consensus was the nominations should be solicited electronically and through the fall meeting announcement. The ballot should be mailed with the spring meeting announcement with the results to be announced at the spring meeting. It was suggested that candidate information can be posted on the Web site and the suggestions for nominations should go through the nominating committee. Gordon and Ron were not happy with the regular mail approach. In response, Bob suggested that the spring mailing could instruct members to go to the appropriate Web page to vote. This method met with the approval of the committee because it would contact everyone by regular mail while providing for electronic balloting. Gordon will check with Judy Franz to verify that APS will then count the votes. Roger agreed that he likes this idea but noted that it cannot be implemented until APS can provide the Web page and counting method. His suggestion was that when this is available, OS/APS should switch to this method of voting. Don noted the by-laws would have to be changed at the spring meeting.

Bruce then summarized the results of the voting discussion.

- 1) The spring mailing will contain an announcement that members should vote for OS/APS officers at the appropriate Web site

2) The balloting will be done electronically on the Web

3) The fall mailing will ask that suggestions for nominees be sent to the nominating committee.

Gordon commented that Ron needs to appoint a nominating committee. Scott reminded that committee that APS is looking for "fresh blood" to participate as section officers.

20. APS Council Report - Perry Yaney

Perry distributed his report on the Council meeting and highlighted a few items including the fact that the details of the Henley committee and the report had not been distributed to the non-voting members of Council, thus there was little discussion of this issue. Perry noted that many items are discussed among the APS Executive Committee that Council does not hear about. Perry indicated that the big discussion at the Council meeting focused on copyright, publishing, and page charge. There was also a discussion of science standards, and Perry distributed copies of the "What is Science" document with his report. Council approved 204 people for fellowship. This number includes 13 women. Perry also said new units were approved but that several Councilors oppose the growth of the number of groups.

In terms of the Henley report, Perry feels that the Council size will definitely be reduced. This will be discussed at the meeting, however, Perry noted that Section representatives cannot make motions. Perry commented that one positive outcome of this issue is that it has provided a motivation for the sections to join forces. Perry's opinion is that the best strategy is for sections to try to get one and possibly two voting members to represent all the sections. Roger asked what the typical length of a councilor term is. The response was 4 years. It was then suggested that two Section councilors with staggered 4 year terms would be the best situation. Perry restated that we need to argue for substantive representation on Council, and Roger added that if decisions are being made by the officers and other professional staff that very little will happen when the current 80 member Council comes together. Gordon commented that his letter had been sent to all in the presidential chain. Some felt that the "hubs and spokes" proposal was too different and perhaps too hard for APS to implement. However, Roger and Bob feel Gordon's proposal may generate interest and stir things up. Other issues dealt with during this discussion included the problem of continuity among councilors and that the sections represent different geographical areas and whether two representatives can adequately represent all sections. Gordon encouraged Ron to keep pushing in this area next year. Bob asked what active participation in other sections. Ron responded that the Southeast section is quite active. Gordon added that the Northeast section has a nice newsletter on the Web.

Roger commented it would be appreciated if APS would archive the meeting program allowing us to provide a link to all meetings. Bob has a list of meetings and topics back to 1960 that could be used by an archivist and historian.

Ron Winters moved that:

The Ohio Section vigorously pursue the writing of a Section history.

The motion was second by Perry Yaney and passed unanimously.

It was added that the document could be published as a monograph or in a journal such as the **American Journal of Physics**.

The meeting ended with Bob extending a note of thanks on behalf of the Executive Committee to Gordon for his service as Chair.

21. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly A. Coplin