

Minutes of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society

Executive Committee

Case Western Reserve University, 17 October 2003

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, October 17, 2003 in the Severance Restaurant in Severance Hall on the Case Western Reserve University campus.. In attendance were Robert Brown, Kim Coplin, Bruce Craver, Mike Crescimanno, Klaus Fritsch, Bob Hengehold, Elizabeth Mann, Roger Rollins, Brad Roth, Brad Trees, Fred Trexler, Paul Wolf, Louis Wright, and Perry Yaney.

1. Bob Brown began at 10 am by welcoming everyone to the Case Western Reserve campus. He gave a brief report on the meeting noting that the attendance numbers look very good. This is a joint meeting with the Ohio Section of AAPT, and Bob B. noted he has learned several things about how to successfully run concurrent meetings. He offered to help update the "Hints for Hosts" document to reflect this information. Bob B. reported that the meeting organizers were very interested in outreach, especially to students, and have scheduled several of the plenary talks in large lecture halls so students and others can easily drop in and listen. Brad Roth from Oakland University (site of Fall 2004 meeting) said he has already been in contact with Michigan AAPT sections. Bob B. suggested that Brad R. attend one of their AAPT meetings to facilitate discussion and planning. Perry noted he has started working on the "Hints for Hosts" document. In addition to Perry, the "Hints for Hosts" update committee includes Ron Winters and Bob Hengehold. Bob B. will also contribute. Roger reminded the committee that "Hints for Hosts" document is available on the OS/APS web site.

2. Secretary's Report and Approval of the Minutes of the Spring 2003 Meeting

The minutes of the Spring 2003 Executive Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Meetings Reports

Spring 2004 – Ohio University

Louis Wright distributed a copy of the announcement for the meeting and noted that Spring 2004 meeting flyers would be available at the registration desk. Lou noted that the topic will be "High Energy Astronomy" and that all is in order for the meeting. The invited speakers are lined up and the meeting chairs plan to invite astronomers from Ohio and neighboring states. This will not be a joint meeting with AAPT.

Fall 2004 – Oakland University

Brad Roth reported that he is putting together an organizing committee that will include Andre Slavin (department chair at Oakland), Bahram Roughani from Kettering, and Al Gibson from AAPT. The dates being considered are October 15-16 and a possible topic is "Biological Physics". (Oakland has a Ph.D. program in Medical Physics.) Members of the executive committee commented that this topic had worked well at the Kent State meeting. Bruce will contact the national office to set the meeting dates. BradR. was encouraged to contact Klaus Fritsch via email to request the \$3000 meeting advance. Lou will also ask for the advance for the Ohio University meeting. Brad R. commented that he had found the "Hints for Hosts" document quite useful. Perry noted that he and Bob H. have planned many meetings and encouraged Brad R. to ask members of the Executive Committee for help and advice when needed. Mike suggested that Brad R. begin to contact companies about possible sponsorship of the meeting. Brad R. noted that Pfizer is a possible sponsor. Mike also suggested possible speakers including Phil Nelson from the University of Pennsylvania and Bob Austin from Princeton.

4. Honors and Awards Committee – Bob Hengehold

Bob H. reported that the Fowler award will be given to Phil Taylor of CWRU at this meeting. A Fowler award will be given to Art Epstein at the Ohio University meeting. Bob H. mentioned that the Fowler Award is currently set up to recognize someone with a strong connection to the state of Ohio. This may need to be discussed and modified if we expand the Ohio Section. Bob H. also noted he is looking for nominees for both the Fowler and Maxwell awards.

5. Membership Committee – Fred Trexler

Fred distributed the membership report which shows that the average OS/APS membership over the past 5 years was 1147 ± 19 . As of July 23, 2003, the membership stood at 1150 which is 2.68% of the official APS membership. The report also included recommendations for the next election with a revised timeline. Fred stressed the importance of the nominating committee getting biographical information from candidates in a timely manner. Fred also distributed a report on web balloting which was implemented for the Spring 2003 election. He noted that there was a return of 14% (a 10% return is considered good for electronic balloting) and that ~10% of the membership needed paper ballots. Roger and Fred agreed to talk about using the OS/APS website for balloting. It was also noted that the nominating committee needs to be appointed by the Executive Committee chair.

Mike reported on the status of the New Community Group. This is a new initiative to get newer faculty involved in the section activities. The Executive Committee vice-chair hosts a lunch for these faculty members on Friday during an OS/APS meeting. Mike reported that 7 faculty from 5 different universities will join Elizabeth for lunch at CWRU. Mike commented that he would like to see more continuity in those attending the lunches; only 1 individual attending today's lunch attended the MSU new community lunch. It was noted that although the lunch is organized by the executive committee chair or vice-chair, meeting hosts will need to provide a room for the luncheon. There was discussion about what faculty are considered "new". Kim commented that it would also be useful to include recently tenured faculty as well as untenured faculty. It was also noted that it might be useful to track lunch attendees to see if they remain members of the section.

Paul reported on his contact with the Forum on Graduate Student Affairs (FGSA). He has talked with Carsten Heeger, the current chair of FGSA, and the organization is interested in finding ways to couple graduate students with Ohio Section activities. Paul will follow up on this and possibly arrange something for the Ohio University meeting.

6. APS Council Report – Perry Yaney

Perry reported that the APS Committee on Constitution and By-laws has approved the new Ohio Section By-laws. Approval from the APS Council is expected to come on November 5. Perry also reminded the committee that the year 2005 has been designated as the "World Year of Physics". APS is encouraging meeting hosts to commemorate this with meeting activities. It was noted that the current section voting representatives to the APS Council are from the New York and Southeast sections. Perry has established communication with them. Bruce noted that we need to track when it will be the responsibility of the Ohio Section to provide the voting representative. The section will need to elect someone to this position. Mike mentioned that the Unit Convocation will be held in January. He would like someone from the Executive Committee to attend with him.

7. Spring 2003 Local Chair's Final Report

Mike reported for Wolfgang Bauer. The Spring 2003 meeting was held at Michigan State University on April 11-12 with a topic of "Frontiers of Quantum Computing". There were approximately 145 registrations (59 students, 64 faculty with 110 banquet attendees. Nineteen posters and 50 talks were

presented. Wolfgang has not submitted a formal final report yet. Mike had contacted Wolfgang to find out the attendance breakdown since one goal of this meeting was to determine possible interest in the section expansion into Michigan. The states represented were as follows: MI – 52 attendees, OH 62, ON – 2, NJ – 2, IN – 6, WI – 1, MO – 1, IL – 2, MA – 1, LA – 1, MD – 2, KY – 1 and PA – 2. The committee felt this was good representation from Michigan, although there was some concern that the number of attendees from Ohio was greater than that of Michigan. The committee next discussed the problem of meeting abstracts not being published in the APS Supplemental Bulletin. Abstracts for 21 presentations and publication fees were collected by MSU but not forwarded to APS for publishing. Brad noted that the section was charged \$170 for the publication of the meeting preamble/epitome in the July 2003 Supplemental BAPS. Mike will follow up with the MSU meeting organizers to sort out the abstract issue and to encourage them to submit a final meeting report that accurately tracks the meeting budget. Bob H. suggested that Mike send them a sample final meeting report and Roger also suggested they check the OS/APS Web site for information. Bruce noted that historically much more communication with national APS had been handled by the executive committee secretary. Now much of this communication goes directly from the local hosts to national APS. It was noted that what is expected needs to be clearly outlined in “Hints for Hosts”. Mike commented that the procedures for “after the meeting” are not as well documented. Bob H. suggested that the “Hints for Hosts” document would be useful if a bulleted checklist were provided. Roger mentioned that the \$3000 from the section to local host used to be paid after the final report was submitted.

8. Treasurer’s Report – Klaus Fritsch and Brad Trees

The Treasurer’s Report was distributed and discussed. Klaus noted a few highlights including a balance of approximately \$36,000 and an interest rate of ~ 7%. He also noted that abstract charges from APS may increase in January 2004 but suggested that no increase in the OS/APS abstract fee is needed until we assess the impact of the change. BradT. noted that we will receive dues income in January. However, there are two meeting advances still to be distributed.

New Business

9. Future Meetings

At this time, no hosts for future meetings have been confirmed beyond the Spring 2005 meeting (University of Dayton). Paul and Elizabeth reported several possible hosts for future meetings including The College of Wooster, the University of Akron polymer group, Oberlin, Kenyon, Denison, and Miami. In his discussions with potential hosts, Paul encountered a misconception that Ohio Section meetings have a fixed agenda; some schools were more interested in hosting when they learned they had the flexibility to choose a topic. There was not a consensus about the possibility of the Ohio Five schools collaborating to host a meeting.

10. Outreach to Unserved Teachers – Elizabeth Mann

Elizabeth suggested that OS/APS compile a list of individuals and groups at various colleges and universities that do outreach type activities. This list would then be distributed to teachers at local schools. Kent State has outreach programs to schools including 3-4 people who do demonstration shows. Kim suggested involving SPS chapters in this activity.

11. Ohio – Michigan Section Name Change

The Executive Committee discussed extension of the Ohio Section to include Michigan and the possibility of a name change for the section. It was noted that it would be helpful to continue to involve people from Michigan on the Executive Committee and that meetings held in Michigan will be necessary if we want to pursue the expansion. Mike noted that the attendees at the Spring 2003 town meeting to

discuss the section expansion were quite positive. Roger asked how many attendees of the current meeting are from Michigan. It was noted that before this issue is taken to the OS/APS membership we need to determine if Michigan members will continue to be involved in the section. Fred said that the numbers so far are encouraging and he encouraged the nominating committee to include nominees from Michigan on the next Executive Committee ballot.

Old Business

12. By-Law Revision

Perry noted that the next election should be for the first group of officers under the new By-laws. Once we receive approval from the APS Council, the By-laws will be ready to go before the OS/APS membership for a vote. Fred suggested that we post both the new and old By-laws on the OS/APS web site for information and comparison prior to the membership vote. Mike will send out an email inviting the membership to vote that will summarize the main By-Law changes and note that the vote is not an opportunity to introduce amendments. Perry will write a summary of these changes and get it to Fred.

Other New Business

Mike mentioned that he has been in contact with a group of retirees in northeastern Ohio who are interested in traveling to local meetings. He also noted that students need to be made aware of funds for travel to meetings. It was suggested that an announcement be sent to department chairs to make this more widely known. A discussion of whether to increase the cap of \$500 per meeting for student travel followed. Fred said that New York Section typically spends ~\$600 per meeting on student travel. The committee also noted that better guidelines for use of these funds needs to be in place.

Klaus Fritsch moved that

“The Ohio Section will allocate \$1000 per meeting to be used at the discretion of the local hosts for student travel to OS/APS meetings. The Ohio Section will provide guidelines for distribution of these funds.”

The motion was seconded by Perry.

Fred commented that the Executive Committee treasurer may be a better choice for oversight of these funds.

Paul Wolf made a friendly amendment to the above motion: “The Ohio Section will increase the funds for student travel to OS/APS meetings from \$500 to \$1000.”

This amendment was seconded by Fred and accepted by Klaus. The final motion was unanimously approved.

The final discussion of the meeting centered on increased PR related to the section expansion and name change. It was suggested the perhaps Mike and Bahram Roughani or Ron Winters could travel to schools in Michigan to promote the Ohio Section. Mike also suggested making a short video promoting the Ohio Section. The video could possibly be filmed at the Oakland meeting. Fred will check on the possibility of having a communication major from Spring Arbor involved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Coplin