

Minutes of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society Fall 1992

Executive Committee

Behrend College - Pennsylvania State University

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday 2 October 1992 in the Conference Room of the Days Inn at Exit 7 of Interstate 90. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by Chair Robert Boughton. In attendance were Barbara Andereck, Lawrence Becker, Robert Boughton, Kim Coplin, Bruce Craver, Michael Fisch, Paul Hagelberg, Jonathan Hall, Robert Hengehold, Jack Kelly, Scott Lee, Robert Marande, Robert Reiland, Donald Schuele, Uwe Thomanschefsky, Gordon Wepfer, Ronald Winters, and Theodore Zaleskiewicz. Richelle Blair and Lawrence Badar gave a special discussion about Project Discovery.

1. Local Chair's Report, Fall 1992 - Robert Marande

Everything is going well for the meeting with the possible exception of one speaker who agreed to give an invited talk but has not responded to phone calls and FAX messages. It is possible that there will be only one invited talk on Saturday morning. The final account of expenses will be ready at a later date. Some of the money has been spent already. Not all of the \$3000 from OSAPS will be used. Local industry has been very supportive of this program. They have been very helpful in providing speakers and one company has volunteered to help with organizing the meeting. There are about 60 people registered for the banquet. There are 18 abstracts for OSAPS and 6 for AAPT. There will be two parallel sessions on Saturday morning for OSAPS as well as a session for AAPT. Bulk mailings for the conference are not a good idea. It took more than two weeks for some mailings to be delivered. The mailing list is also very long, about 1900 names. There are about 1600 names from the National Office and about 800 from OSAPS. This list is too big. Another word of advice for future organizers is to be sure that the faculty is stable; two people have left Behrends since this process began.

Comments about AAPT meeting - Jonathan Hall

The AAPT meeting starts tomorrow morning. There will be an invited talk about the physics of toys as well as 6 contributed talks. There will also be a workshop (sponsored by Pasco) dealing with computer-controlled experiments and demonstrations. Ted Zaleskiewicz commented that Pasco is providing the door prizes for AAPT.

2. Secretary's Report - Bruce Craver and Scott Lee

The minutes of the meeting of Executive Committee of OSAPS at the Cincinnati meeting (Spring 1992) were accepted after correcting one typographical error in section 9. A letter has been received from Bill Havens at the National Office requesting a copy of the by-laws of the OSAPS to be kept at the National Office. Bunny Clark of Ohio State told Bruce that we have already done this. Gordon Wepfer and Robert Hengehold were the

only two Executive Committee members who had copies of the by-laws. The consensus was that every member should have a copy. Paul Hagelberg felt that we were waiting to respond to this request since there are some discrepancies between the format of our by-laws and the requested format from the National Office. A letter has been received from Sue Foley about membership renewals. Barbara Andereck will speak about this.

3. Treasurer's Report - Ronald Winters

The treasurer's report was distributed earlier. The account with the National Office of the APS is in place and earns about 7% interest. There was a small problem in getting the check for the \$3000 advance to Behrend College in time, but everything was straightened out. At the last meeting there was a question about the abstract publication charge. It seemed that we had been charged twice and this was the case. The National Office corrected this problem and even provided \$46 for the interest which would have accrued. OSAPS now has a balance of approximately \$22,000. Perhaps the committee should try to think of creative ways to spend any monies over \$20,000. Robert Hengehold brought a check for about \$2800 to pay for the abstract charge from the WSU/AFIT meeting (Fall 91). The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously by a voice vote.

4. Chair's Report on Subunit Convocation - Robert Boughton

The chairs of all sections were invited to a convocation in New York City. From this meeting it is clear that the National Office thinks a great deal of every section, including OSAPS. There is now a new format for the *Bulletin of the American Physical Society*. It has been split into two parts: a "What's New" publication to keep members informed of events (including schedules of upcoming meetings) and a "proceedings" publication in which abstracts will appear. The deadline for the abstracts to appear are 28 May for Transaction A (which appears on 1 July) and 8 October for Transaction B (which appears on 1 December). There will probably not be any problem with meeting the 28 May deadline for the Spring Meetings, but there might be serious problems in meeting the 8 October deadline for the Fall Meetings. June Schultz in the publication department says there might be some leeway with the deadline, but not much. The Washington meeting was also discussed. It is a losing proposition currently, but it is unclear what will be done.

5. Local Chair's Report, Spring 1993 - Jack Kelly

There has not been any word from the National Office yet if the dates (7 and 8 May) have been accepted. It was noted that those dates have appeared in the announcement of the meeting which recently appeared in *What's New* publication. The topic of the meeting will be "Display Technology." There will be four invited speakers to speak on this topic. The after-dinner talk will be about high definition TV. The NSF center is co-sponsoring the meeting to help defray the costs of the speakers.

Comments about K.S.U. 'Particle Chart Workshop - Ted Zaleskiewicz (Contemporary Physics Education Project)

In response to the OSAPS request that a "Particle Chart Workshop" for high school teachers be presented at the Kent State meeting, Ted and Robert Reiland are planning a 5-6 hour workshop (starting at 9 AM on Friday) with 10-12 high school teachers from NE Ohio. Roy McCullough and Jodi Morckel (two high school teachers in the "Kent State" region) have agreed to help with the mailing lists. The OSAPS is providing \$750 for participant support (substitute teacher fees, meals, etc.). A question arose of whether a famous particle physicist should be brought to the meeting to speak to the teachers. The Executive Committee approved the idea. Ted suggested bringing Dr. Yost from the SSC. Ron Winters made a motion to add \$250 to the contribution from OSAPS for this workshop. The extra \$250 would be used to defray local expenses of the speaker. The motion was seconded by Robert Hengehold (and Gordon Wepfer). There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Local Chair's Report, Fall 1993 - Michael Fisch

The dates for the meeting will be 15 and 16 October 1993 and the topic will be "Physics of Interfaces." Mike is currently trying to schedule rooms for this meeting. The situation is complicated somewhat by the fact that there is another meeting at John Carroll at the same time. Mike would like to have an estimate of the typical number of attendees to a Fall Meeting. The consensus was something around 150. Mike will schedule a room which seats 170 for the invited talks. Three or four people have already expressed interest in giving invited talks. Mike would like to have suggestions for the after-dinner talk. The AAPT is interested in participating in the meeting also.

7. Local Chair's Report, Spring 1994 - Donald Schuele

The suggested dates for the meeting will be 13 and 14 May 1994 and the topic will be "Computers in Physics Education." Paul Hagelberg moved that the National Office be contacted about these dates. Robert Boughton seconded and the motion passed.

8. Future Meetings - Robert Boughton

Bob listed Dayton, Akron, Toledo, and Youngstown as possible sites for future meetings. Scott Lee volunteered the University of Toledo for the Fall 1994 meeting.

9. Membership Committee Report - Barbara Andereck

The National Office has sent a list of 858 members as of 8 Sept 1992. This is a little down from last year. However, it is possible that more membership will come in before the end of the calendar year. The local mailing list has 842 names. The National Office has also volunteered to help us determine if those people who have recently quit the section really wanted to. After some discussion, the general feeling was that since it is not trivial to figure out how to quit, then anyone who does quit must really have intended to. Contacting these people seems like a waste of time. The local mailing list needs to be pruned. Anyone who attends a meeting is placed on the mailing list. This is particularly bad for those students who have graduated and left the state. There was also some

discussion about how a name gets added to the list. The Membership Committee needs to receive the list from the Local Chair as rapidly as possible after a meeting. Currently, only the name of the person and the institution is sent. Additional information about the mailing address of the person would be appreciated. Larry Becker will be handling the data base for the mailing list from now on. In order to prepare the mailing list for the next meeting rapidly, the current Local Chair should send the attendee list as soon as possible.

10. Honors and Awards Committee - Robert Hengehold

At the Cincinnati meeting, there was discussion about giving the Fowler Award within a year. The Committee received some nominations and the decision to give the Fowler Award to Professor Rao of Ohio State University was virtually unanimous. It would be best to present the award at the banquet at the Kent State meeting. Bob will contact Prof. Rao to see if he can attend the Kent State meeting. Nominations for Fowler and Maxwell Awards will be sought. It would be good to develop a standard form to use for nominations. In the current situation, if a person would like to nominate someone, the typical practice is to ask for a resume. If a form had to be filled out (which requires some real effort), then nominations would only be made after some careful thought about the merits of the nominee. Also, since the thicknesses of resumes vary, it is sometimes difficult to determine if someone is deserving of an award solely based on the resume. Perry Yaney at UD has such a form from a different organization. Finally, Bob spoke of a desire to modify the representation of the committee.

The meeting was recessed for a short break beginning at 11:00 AM. During this break, the guests (Richelle Blair and Lawrence Badar) were called into the room for their presentation. The meeting was reconvened at 11:06 AM.

11. Project Discovery - Richelle Blair and Lawrence Badar

Richelle M. Blair, Statewide Coordinator for Administration, Project Discovery, Ohio Board of Regents

Larry Badar, Statewide Teacher Coordinator, Project Discovery; he is half-time and has his office at Case Western Reserve University where he has other special administrative assignments for the University

Project Discovery is a professional development program for teachers, funded through the National Science Foundation's Statewide Systemic Initiatives, with matching funds from the State of Ohio. Discovery was funded in 1991 as one of the first 10 states funded under the Statewide Systemic Initiative (SSI). In spring 1992, 11 more states were funded.

The mission of Project Discovery is to increase the quality of teaching and learning of mathematics and science through professional development of teachers in the overall context of systemic change. As a first step a systemic reform, the project is focused upon a process for sustained professional development of middle school and junior high school mathematics and science teachers and incorporates an action plan to increase the

public understanding of the critical importance of mathematics and science education for Ohio's economic future.

Project Discovery will accomplish its goals through mathematics and science workshops offered at the Host Sites of The Ohio State University and Miami University and regional teacher training sites. Eight regions have been formed in the state and regional partnerships have been created to implement the project at the local level.

In summer 1992, OSU and MU offered two courses: Physics by Inquiry and Mathematics through Problem Solving. The goals of both courses was solid grounding in the content areas of mathematics and physics and the instructors modeling inquiry-based instructional strategies. A key component in Discovery is the use of inquiry- based instruction. Leadership Teams for the Northeast and West Discovery Regions were joined by classroom teachers from across the state in the workshops on the two campuses. These teams and teachers have now returned to their own regions and schools to implement inquiry- based instruction in the schools and design workshops to be offered in summer 1993 in the Northeast and West Regions.

OSU and MU will offer similar courses in Summer 1993, along with a life- science workshop. Each summer course is an intensive, 6- week experience.

12. Old Business

Paul Hagelberg asked about the money (up to \$500) that is supposed to be provided for student support at each meeting. This was first tried at the WSU-AFIT meeting. This program is still in effect. The student's advisor needs to contact the local chair. Usually the local organization provides the banquet and OSAPS pays for travel and lodging.

13. New Business

A nominating committee needs to be appointed. Ron Winters asked if anyone is on top of the Science Day Award being sponsored by OSAPS and handled by the AAPT. No one seemed to be; SOSAAPT should be contacted.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectively submitted,
Scott A. Lee
Section Associate Secretary