

Minutes of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society

Executive Committee

Miami University, 10 October 1997

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, October 10, 1997, in the Bystrom Room of the Shriver Center. The meeting was called to order by Chair Scott Lee at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were Barbara Andereck, Gordon Aubrecht, Larry Becker, Bob Boughton, Kim Coplin, Bruce Craver, Paul Errington, Greg Hassold, Bob Hengehold, Peter Henriksen, Graciela Lacueva, Scott Lee, Roger Rollins, Paul Scholten, Don Schuele, Ron Winters, and Perry Yaney.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 2, 1997.

The minutes of the Spring 1997 meeting of the Executive Committee of OS/APS were approved as submitted.

2. Local Chairs Report, Fall 1997 - Paul Scholten

The meeting topic is "Curriculum Development Beyond the Introductory Course". Paul reported that they had 123 preregistrations for the meeting and 105 banquet reservations. Approximately 27 preregistrations were from the SOS/AAPT. There are 64 contributed papers. Paul also reported that he had received 5 requests for the \$45 student support, and he asked how this reimbursement should be handled. Roger suggested that Miami University reimburse the individuals requesting support, then include this amount in the final report for reimbursement from the OS/APS.

3. Secretary's Report - Kim Coplin

Kim noted that the minutes are posted on the OS/APS Web site.

4. Treasurer's Report - Roger Rollins

The treasurer's report was distributed and discussed.

Ron and the Executive Committee thanked Roger for preparing the report.

5. Final Chair's Report, Spring 1997 - Bob Boughton

Bob B. distributed the meeting report and noted that the attendance was 136 with 102 at the banquet. The meeting income and expenses are detailed on the report.

Roger asked Bob B. if he thought the increase in registration cost had lowered meeting attendance. A discussion of meeting cost followed. A previous meeting at Bowling Green on "Computational Physics" had 150 attendees. Roger noted that meeting cost had tripled

since that meeting. Scott pointed out that there are 123 preregistrations for current meeting. Bob H. said he feels the meeting cost is minimal. Roger wondered if people are not registering for meetings, but feels no action is needed unless it gets to be a constant problem. Roger also mentioned the importance of external funding pointing out that Bowling Green had \$3400 in external support. Ron questioned if anyone has noticed that the meeting fee went up, and Greg added that as long as meeting registration is less than lodging and other expenses that most people don't notice. Bob H. commented that fall meeting are typically better attended than spring meetings. The discussion ended with Bob B. and Don pointing out they had discussed the low preregistration for the Bowling Green meeting. Roger said the check from OS/APS would be sent to Bowling Green's Physics Department.

6. Local Chair's Report, Spring 1998 - Paul Errington

The meeting will be May 1-2, 1998 at Ball State University, and the topic will focus on Mars. Paul reported that plans are being finalized with NASA people and the Mars survey and explorer group. There is still a concern about attendance for two reasons: 1. the spring APS/AAPT meeting in Columbus and 2. the geographic location. The Friday sessions will held in the new Alumni Center and the Saturday sessions will be in the Cooper Science Complex. Bob H. asked when Ball State last had a meeting and Scott responded that it was Fall 1975. It was pointed out by Paul that this meeting will be a joint meeting with the Indiana section of AAPT.

7. Local Chair's Report, Fall 1998 - Peter Henriksen

The Fall 1998 meeting will be held at the University of Akron. Peter reported that the topic will be "Scanning Probe Microscopy" with an emphasis on applications. Peter noted that they have ideas for speakers but have not yet contacted anyone, and that they welcome additional suggestions for speakers or applications. The dates for the meeting will be October 16-17, 1998. It will be a joint meeting with the American Vacuum Society and that there is the possibility of an AAPT meeting as well. It was noted that SOS/AAPT will have a meeting at Ohio Wesleyan University on October 24, 1998.

Peter noted that the Inventors' Hall of Fame is in Akron and that they hope to have the facility available in some way for the meeting. Possibilities include having free passes for all attendees and/or having the after dinner talk there. Peter hopes this will generate more public involvement. They hope to have a speaker who will do some "show and tell type demos" and they are open to ideas. One possible speaker is Robert Greenler (sp?).

Peter asked for suggestions for a successful meeting. Barbara commented that publicity at the prior meeting in the form of a handout or overhead announcement is important. Peter asked how the meeting is described on the Web site. Roger said the meeting location should already be on the Web site, and he suggested that Akron create Web site and then he could link the Akron site with the OS/APS page. Closer to the meeting, it will be important to work with APS. Roger suggested that Akron use their own version of a Web site for meeting announcements, but when abstracts are submitted to let national APS do

it. It was also pointed out that the most recent "Hints for Hosts" are on the OS/APS Web page and that the pre-publicity suggestion needs to get added to the hints. Roger will try to put a counter on the OS/APS Web page. Bob B. commented that he is open to other suggestions for "Hints for Hosts". Don suggested that a meeting announcement should be sent to all SPS advisors.

8. Local Chair's Report, Spring 1999 - Greg Hassold

Greg announced that effective January 1998, the name of GMI will be changed to Kettering University. Roger asked when the name should be changed on the Web site and Greg responded that it should be changed now. The topic of the meeting will be "Applied and Industrial Physics", and the speakers will primarily be from applied and national labs in the areas of acoustics, applied optics, and materials. The organizers hope to get FIAP involved, and they plan to get information out to Michigan schools including University of Michigan and Michigan State University. The date has not yet been set, but Greg noted they plan to check the APS calendar and avoid the March meeting. Bruce commented that he will need to e-mail APS so they can approve the date when it is decided. Perry reminded the committee that we are to carry the APS Centennial theme through to our local meetings, so GMI should try to accommodate that in some way. Perry also commented that APS will fund a speaker of an appropriate nature to promote the Centennial goals and that they will have available a big poster celebrating the Centennial that can be displayed. Greg mentioned one idea for an after dinner speaker is someone who can discuss the current job situation. Peter asked if there had been any success in the past with student poster sessions and if there was an award for best student presentation. Roger commented that they had a poster session at the Ohio University meeting, and that although there was not much attendance at the beginning, it filled up as other parallel sessions ended. Bob H. said it is important to have refreshments at poster sessions. Perry commented that he feels it is important for undergraduates to give an oral presentation versus a poster presentation, and Bob H. added that people often treat poster sessions as an afterthought when they have nothing else to attend.

9. Future Meetings

We need a host for the Fall 1999 meeting and Scott had looked at the meeting history for possibilities. The University of Cincinnati last hosted in Spring 1992, Wright State in Fall 1991, Kent State in Spring 1993, and Denison in Fall 1990. These are all possibilities for future meetings. Bob H. offered to approach Wright State about hosting the Fall 1999 meeting, and Gordon mentioned that branch or regional campuses are also possible sites.

10. Membership Committee - Larry Becker and Graciela Lacueva

Larry reported that they are in the process of switching the records from Hiram to John Carroll. The national APS records indicate our membership at 1256 which is down 46 from last year. Larry is not sure why this is since it is not clear how APS keeps records, but it may be a lag in membership. Bob H. mentioned that the national APS membership is also going down which means the our 3% number will not be affected. The local count

was 404 as of last year and is currently at 553. The local list contains a large number of students, and it was noted that students are dropped off the local list after 2 years. Perry suggested a spreadsheet to illustrate meeting attendance and running totals of local and national lists would be useful. It was also noted that the attendance form Bob B. submitted for the Bowling Green meeting was perfect to update the local database. Don questioned when the national APS closes its membership book since they have gone to a floating membership renewal system. It would be possible to call APS and find out the date they use. Finally, Larry noted that as of January 1997 our membership percentage was 3.2 %.

11. Honors and Awards Committee - Bob Hengehold

Bob announced that there would be no award presentation at this meeting. There may be an award given at the Ball State meeting, if not then, one will definitely be made at the Akron meeting. Roger commented that he has received no bills from Bob H. and Bob responded that Roger would soon be receiving bills for two plaques and timers.

12. Old Business

Scott announced that he had received a letter from Judy Franz requesting names for the Nominating Committee. Gordon suggested that we email everyone on OS/APS list and ask for self-nominations. Bob H. and Ron commented that, if possible, Executive Committee members should email Scott a couple suggested names.

Ron initiated a discussion of the role of Tom Greenslade who has been asked to prepare a poster display for the Ohio Section for the Centennial meeting in Atlanta. Ron had a letter from Tom in which he described his idea for the display. It will consist of approximately 100 pictures of apparatus; all of the pieces pictured exist in Ohio colleges. The final size of the display will depend on the space available. He will make an effort to use pictures and text that depict the history of physics in Ohio (e.g. Chamberlin built the interferometer used by Michelson.). Tom also provided a preliminary budget of \$1400 with the expectation that a more realistic budget will be available as the project develops. Ron ended by asking if this is what the section expected.

Don commented that the Case Western model of the Michelson-Morley experiment would provide a 3-d component of the display. He also added that something is needed to detail the history of the section. The minimal size needed for the display is 8-10 m long and 6 m high. Perry and Bob H. will find out the exact space arrangements. The theme of the exhibit is currently "Ohio Physics"; it was commented that the exhibit should also include Nobel Prize winners. Ron volunteered to ask Tom to do a detailed sketch of the exhibit and to attend the spring executive committee meeting. Bob H. noted a concern about the quality of the presentation and suggested that the display be made as professional as possible. It was also noted that the more details such as lighting, space, power, facilities for mounting photos, are needed.

Bob H. announced that he has talked with the archivist at Ohio University about setting up and maintaining a history of the Ohio Section. One possibility is to have graduate students involved in developing this history which may require funding to pay the students. Bob H. suggested that items relevant to the history of the section be collected and delivered to Ohio University, and he will take further steps to get this project going.

Ron Winters moved that :

"The Ohio Section make \$500 available immediately to cover the initial costs of maintaining the history of the Ohio Section at Ohio University."

The motion was seconded by Gordon Aubrecht and passed with a unanimous vote.

Ron volunteered to help with the project, and Bob H. commented that several people need to be interviewed before the history of the section is lost.

Perry reported on the APS Council. The Executive Board held a retreat June 19-21. Perry highlighted several items from the minutes of this meeting. The percentage of retired members in the APS has increased from 9% to 12%. Only 9% of the members feel that APS does a good job supporting pre-college education. There is still a strong show of support for print journals. Perry also reported that APS is inviting top physicists from every country to participate in the Centennial. The next Council meeting is Nov. 22 in San Francisco and Perry plans to attend.

Bruce Craver commented that he had received a memo from Barrie Ripin noting that the dates for the Miami meeting fall on a Jewish holiday.

Bob H. noted one more item about the archive commenting that Ohio University would like to obtain copyright and ownership of the section history materials. It was decided that this was not a problem.

13. New Business

Scott had received a letter from Pat Griffith at Ohio State regarding distribution of information about a seminar series to those on our e-mail list. Ron responded that the e-mail list should not be distributed. If someone wants to sent information, they should submit the text to the secretary and he should decide what gets distributed. Bob H. added that we do not distribute our membership list. Perry suggested that we could make an addition to our regular mailing that invites people interested in more seminar information to contact the appropriate Web site.

The Executive Committe had received a request from the SPS Zone 7 Councillor (Laura Van Wormer) to consider permanent joint sponsorship of meetings. The concern stated by members of the Executive Committee was that SPS would be involved at a minimal level, but would get their name added essentially for free. In addition, co-sponsoring meetings adds another group to coordinate with which can be a problem when meetings

are being planned. It was suggested that SPS be invited to be involved in the meetings in an active way as an affiliate society of OS/APS. A meeting flyer should be sent to each local SPS president and advisor and they should be asked to publicize meetings. It was also noted that it may be appropriate for the Zone Councillor to take over the responsibility for the student mailing list (primarily the undergraduate students). Another suggestion was that the Zone Councillor should be invited to attend Executive Committee meetings as a non-voting member. This would allow the Councillor to carry away ideas to be implemented. It was decided to let the co-sponsorship grow and that meeting co-sponsorship should be decided between individual meetings chairs and the SPS Councillor. It was also noted that it will be difficult to schedule more activities for OS/APS meetings.

A question was asked regarding abstract fees and it was noted that the Ohio Section charges \$40 for abstract publication while the Texas section charges \$15 and the New England section \$35. Abstract fees are set by the sections themselves, and we do currently make money on abstract fees. Money is only collected for contributed abstracts and APS charges by the page. It was noted that at one point the section was losing money on abstracts, and that was when the fee was raised to \$40.

Scott had received a phone call from Judy Franz requesting that the Centennial video or display be shown at our Fall 1999 section meeting. Ron suggested that the video be sent to colleges and universities for additional showings after the meeting. The APS goal is to produce a 20 minute video.

Scott also commented that he had received a concern from the APS main office regarding election of OS/APS officers. Currently officers are elected at meetings, not by a mail vote, and the main office feels it is important that all members have a chance to vote. In response, it was noted that if there is only one choice for the slate of officers, it doesn't matter who votes.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05.

Respectively Submitted,
Kimberly A. Coplin