

Minutes of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society (approved)  
Executive Committee Meeting  
8 April 2005, University of Dayton

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, April 8, 2005 in Room 310 in the Kennedy Union at the University of Dayton. In attendance were Mike Crescimanno, Klaus Fritsch, Elizabeth George, Emily Heckman, Robert Hengehold, Sabine Jeschonnek, Elizabeth Mann, Crittenden Ohlemacher, Cameron Reed, Uwe Trittmann, Timothy Vierheller, Paul Wolf, Perry Yaney, and Ulrich Zurcher.

1. Elizabeth Mann presided over the meeting, calling it to order at 10:00 am and greeting everyone.

2. Secretary's report: Elizabeth George

Klaus Fritsch pointed out the statement on p. 3 that we charge \$45 for the abstract fee. We actually currently charge \$40, but the Executive Committee had previously agreed to raise the charge to \$45 for future meetings. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Future meetings reports

Fall 2005 (Cleveland State): Ulrich Zurcher reported that rooms and speakers are set; a poster and announcements are ready to go. The meeting will be held Oct. 14-15, and the theme is "From Brownian motion to the physics of complexity." Speakers are Mehran Kardar (MIT), Michael Dennin (University of California - Irvine), George D. J. Phillies (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), Jearl Walker (Cleveland State University), and Lawrence M. Krauss (Case Western Reserve University). They have a commitment of \$3,000 from the Provost.

Spring 2006 (Wayne State): Claude Pruneau wasn't able to attend because of illness, but sent an update. The meeting will be April 7-8, 2006, with a theme of "Physics of the Early Universe." Brian Greene is tentatively scheduled for the Friday evening public lecture. They have several ideas for additional speakers but are still open to suggestions. They have some financial support from the university, but are negotiating for additional support. They are also talking with the Michigan section of AAPT and should know about whether they will participate soon. We should remind them to ask OSAPS for an advance and to schedule the banquet location.

Fall 2006 (University of Akron Wayne College): Timothy Vierheller

Tim Vierheller reported that the college, which has 1900 students and 1 building, has enough open classrooms available for the meeting, the auditorium seats 120-130, and the banquet can be held in the gymnasium with catered food. The campus is located in a rural area; hotels are in Wooster, about 10 miles away. Tim is looking for additional help from the main campus. Given the local expertise, Physics Education or Polymers would be good themes. Possible meeting dates are October 13-14 or 20-21, depending on what the national APS says about possible conflicts. Elizabeth Mann pointed out that we will also need a good space for the poster session. Mike Crescimanno suggested that Wooster might be willing to help with the meeting as well. The location is at the southern limit for the Ohio Section AAPT; we could pursue a joint meeting with them though OSAAPT isn't sure how many of their members would travel that far. We could also explore the possibility of a joint meeting with the Southern Ohio Section AAPT.

Future meeting locations were discussed. It was suggested that a southern location would be good for a 2007 meeting. Mike Crescimanno has been trying to identify hosts for future meetings. He's talked with Ernest Behringer at Eastern Michigan University about spring 2007 and Samir Bali at Miami about fall 2007 or spring 2008. There are some new astronomers at Youngstown State University who might be

willing to put together a meeting. Elizabeth Mann mentioned that Bob Pompei of the New York Section talked with several of us at the Unit Convocation about the possibility of a joint meeting with NYAPS. Paul Wolf pointed out that some time ago we had a meeting near Erie at which attendance wasn't good. We would need heavy advertising and strong involvement of local people for a meeting outside Ohio to work. We could use the NY Section apparatus to advertise meetings we have in NE Ohio (for example, the Cleveland State meeting) and see how many people come from New York. Paul Wolf mentioned that AFIT would be interested in cohosting a future meeting with Wright State. Mike Crescimanno is talking with someone from Wright State later and will explore that. We should also think about a central location such as Ohio Wesleyan or Denison. Mike Crescimanno suggested we could talk to Brad Roth to see whether he has any ideas for future Michigan sites. Toledo or Bowling Green are possibilities in NW Ohio.

4. Final report from Fall 2004 (Oakland University) meeting: Elizabeth Mann for Brad Roth  
There were 163 attendees; the meeting broke even financially. There were 103 attendees from Michigan, 52 from Ohio, and 8 from other states. It was a joint meeting with the Michigan Section of AAPT. The themes were Medical Physics and Physics Education. 31 oral and 21 poster presentations were given.

The abstracts have been published for both the Oakland U and the Ohio U meetings. The only abstracts currently awaiting publication are from the Michigan State meeting. These abstracts should be published in the spring, but we need to supply a preamble explaining why they're late and putting them in context.

5. Membership committee: Elizabeth Mann for Fred Trexler  
There was an increase in OSAPS membership from 1157 to 1286 in the last year (numbers obtained from the APS national office); this current membership number is significantly greater than the recent average. 50 of 129 new members are from Ohio; many of the rest are from Michigan. Sabine Jeschonnek asked how many APS members live in Ohio. Mike Crescimanno believes that there are about 4000 names on the mailing list of "local" APS members.

6. Membership drive: Mike Crescimanno  
Mike Crescimanno reported on the membership drive effort at recent meetings. Passing around a pad of paper at the plenary session to get the signatures of those who want to join the section has been effective. We usually get about 20 names, which we send to national APS, and they add the APS members to OSAPS and contact nonmembers about membership.

7. Treasurer's report: Klaus Fritsch  
Our balance is up to \$38,242.80, earning interest at 7%. For the last several meetings BAPS charges have exceeded abstract fees collected. The final net cost to OSAPS for the Oakland University meeting is \$3681, excluding any possible outstanding travel costs, although Elizabeth Mann thinks that travel costs have already been included. There were no travel requests for students for the Oakland U meeting. Klaus isn't completely sure about the exact breakdown for Ohio U/Oakland U abstract costs, since it was billed as a unit.

It was pointed out that total meeting costs seem to vary a lot from meeting to meeting, and there's an upward trend. We discussed whether we should increase the standard OSAPS advance. The actual expenses to OSAPS for the last few years seem to be around \$3500 on average. It appears that we do need to increase the abstract fee to \$45.

Elizabeth Mann pointed out that we have a large cash reserve, and at the Unit Convocation the APS staff suggested that units should think of creative ways to use cash reserves for outreach. It was

suggested that we should invest in activities that increase interest in the section as well as for pure outreach. Outreach to physicists in industry would be one way to accomplish this.

8. APS Councilor's report: Paul Wolf

Paul Wolf reported that in November the Council approved nominees for APS Fellows, and that Perry Yaney is a new Fellow. Congratulations were offered to Perry. A new task force on ethics education is forming, with Allen Goldman (Minnesota) as chair.

9. Spring 2005 meeting report: Perry Yaney

Perry introduced Bob Brecha, one of the local organizers. There are almost 200 registrants, 88 papers, 33 posters, and 120 banquet registrations. The optics workshop for high school teachers has 11 registrants, with space for 5 more. Rex Berney obtained Bauder Fund money to help pay for the workshop materials.

10. Honors and awards: Bob Hengehold

Bob reported that several people have told him they plan to send him nominations, but haven't done so yet. He has some ideas for the Maxwell Award, but needs nominations for the Fowler Award. A letter to department chairs informing them of these awards and seeking nominations might help. Mike Crescimanno suggested that it would be appropriate to have the Fowler Award recipient colocated with the meeting, as we've sometimes done in the past. Bob pointed out that this award does need some sort of official Ohio connection.

11. Election, vice chair and treasurer: Mike Crescimanno

Mike reported that he has talked to several people and has gotten some commitments to host future meetings, but no nominees at this point. We need to make an announcement at this meeting and perhaps follow up with a mass email. It was suggested that in the future we should try to avoid having people on the nomination committee who are also involved with meetings.

There is a membership committee, which currently includes Fred Trexler; it could also include the vice chair, chair elect, and/or members at large. There also needs to be an outreach committee.

12. Outreach: Elizabeth Mann

Bob Brown has requested that OSAPS cosponsor a World Year of Physics high school video contest with OS/AAPT. They would like us to help publicize the contest and have also discussed possible OSAPS help with the funding of the prize. They'll be ramping up for this during the summer, and plan to approach SOS/AAPT as well.

Other means of outreach were discussed. Critt Ohlemacher suggested that we award special district level science fair prizes; he estimates this would cost about \$800 a year. We could also invite and provide financial support for the winning students and their teachers to attend OSAPS meetings. Instead of a cash prize, we could provide book prizes, and include a certificate and brochures about physics careers. We may be able to get the AAPT sections involved in such efforts. Local organizers can probably provide judges for these special prizes. The possibility of getting involved with the Science Olympiad was mentioned.

Elizabeth Mann reported that local high school teachers are interested in lists of people who would be available to go and do demonstrations in their classes. They're also interested in a clearinghouse for information and online experiments. We could put together a Web site with links to those things since many of them already exist. We need to get a committee working on this. Elizabeth Mann and Elizabeth George will also look into having representatives from OS/AAPT and SOS/AAPT meet with OSAPS representatives on Saturday at the fall 2006 Wayne College meeting, which is midway between the two

territories, to discuss areas of collaboration.

13. Unit Convocation: Elizabeth Mann, Elizabeth George, Uwe Trittman

Attendees felt that the convocation was worthwhile, and it would be good to send three people every year (APS will pay for three attendees from the section). We particularly noticed other sections' involvement with industry and AAPT sections; for example, other sections make sure they always have an officer from industry. Paul Wolf said that industrial participation in OSAPS has historically been sparse. We discussed ways of increasing industrial participation. In Europe, industry participation at meetings is greater since they do pre-recruiting there. In order to attract industrial representatives, we could advertise the fact that typically half of our meeting attendees are students. We could also contact former students in local industries. Cameron Reed volunteered to take ideas for a draft letter to industrial contacts.

14. Abstract fee

Cameron Reed moved and Crittenden Ohlemacher seconded that "With the Spring 2006 meeting, the abstract fee should be raised to \$45 to reflect the cost of publication."

We discussed whether this might reduce the number of people presenting at meetings. The motion passed unanimously. Elizabeth Mann will communicate this to Claude Pruneau.

15. Other member services: Sabine Jeschonnek

It would be useful for OSAPS to have a Web page with job advertisements for temporary jobs or jobs advertised only locally, such as for adjuncts or lab instructors. APS has approved ads on divisional Web pages, so this should be possible. Uwe Trittman has compiled a Web page with a list of all colleges and universities in Ohio--this would also be a useful addition to the OSAPS Web page. We can also put links on the site that would be useful for teachers, as discussed under outreach.

Paul Wolf suggested that we need to think about migrating the Web page to APS; they provide this service for most other units, and Roger Rollins at Ohio U is now retired. Elizabeth Mann will approach Roger about wanting to add all these items to our Web page and see if he still wants to do it or if he's ready to let APS host the site.

16. Procedures to help new Executive Committee members: Elizabeth Mann, Uwe Trittman

Officers should write up a summary of the duties of their position according to the new bylaws.

Elizabeth George volunteered to collect these summaries. Uwe Trittman shared a draft he wrote for the Chair-Elect position. He pointed out that the bylaws say the Chair-Elect interfaces with the local organizing committees, but in practice they seem to interact with the Chair. It was agreed that the idea is for the Chair-Elect to communicate with the local organizing committees, but the situation for this fall's meeting is a special case since the local organizers were brought in very late.

17. Interim Treasurer

Sabine Jeschonnek moved, and Cameron Reed seconded, that Klaus Fritsch be appointed as interim treasurer till elections can be held. This motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth George  
Secretary, Ohio Section APS