

Minutes of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society (approved)
Executive Committee Meeting
31 March 2006, Wayne State University

The Executive Committee of the Ohio Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, March 31, 2006, in Room E of the McGregor Center at Wayne State University. In attendance were Gordon Aubrecht, Ernest Behringer, Michael Crescimanno, Jeff Dyck, Elizabeth George, Robert Hengehold, Herbert Jaeger, Sabine Jeschonnek, Elizabeth Mann, Crittenden Ohlemacher, Claude Pruneau, Brad Trees, Uwe Trittman, Tim Vierheller, Paul Wolf, and Ulrich Zurcher.

1. Uwe Trittman presided over the meeting, calling it to order at 10:00 am, and beginning with a welcome, an expression of thanks to Claude Pruneau and his colleagues as hosts of this meeting, and introductions.

2. Secretary's report: Elizabeth George

The minutes of the previous Executive Committee meeting were presented. It was pointed out that in Item 3 the contribution from the section to the Wayne State meeting should be \$3000 rather than \$2000. With this change, the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Meetings reports

Spring 2006, Wayne State University, Claude Pruneau:

There are 4 invited talks, 21 posters, and about 30 contributed talks scheduled. The attendance will be over 100, with 60 at the banquet. The budget looks good. There have been contributions from the university, with \$3000 from the section.

Fall 2006, U. Akron Wayne College, Tim Vierheller:

Tim gave out copies of the meeting announcement/poster. The theme of the meeting is Polymer Surfaces and Interfaces, with a special speaker on Benjamin Franklin. The talks will be in the auditorium, and the poster session in the gym. The banquet/after-dinner speaker will be at a golf course 4 miles away. The budget looks fine, with \$3000 from the section and contributions from the college.

Spring 2007, Eastern Michigan, Ernest Behringer:

If the meeting is in spring 2007, we won't be able to include the MIAAPT, because they are meeting with the Michigan Science Teachers Association (MSTA) in Grand Rapids on a different weekend. There was discussion about whether we should move the Eastern Michigan meeting to a time when MIAAPT could participate such as Fall 2007. It was generally felt that having AAPT participation is good if feasible, but shouldn't be the driving factor. Several recent meetings (2004, 2006) have been joint meetings, so it may be all right to wait till 2008 for another. Also, some work has already been done on the Fall 2007 meeting, and it's short notice to find an alternate site for Spring 2007. It was pointed out that AAPT participation in the OSAPS Friday talks has often been low; it works better to try to get them involved in the banquet and Saturday activities. We can have special workshops for teachers at the Spring 2007 meeting to encourage teachers to attend, even if it's not a joint meeting. It was decided that we should go ahead with a Spring 2007 meeting at Eastern Michigan.

Fall 2007, Miami University, Herbert Jaeger:

The proposed date is October 19-20, 2007. Elizabeth George will check those dates with APS. The

theme will be Undergraduate Research.

Spring 2008, Youngstown State University

Mike Crescimanno communicated further details via Elizabeth Mann. The local organizing committee is Pat Durrell, Jim Andrews, and John Feldmeier. The meeting is planned for the end of March as a joint meeting with the Ohio Section AAPT, and with a tie-in to the 100th anniversary of YSU.

Fall 2008, tentatively at Wright State/AFIT

Brad Trees thought that Ohio Wesleyan would be willing to host a meeting in 2009 (preferably in the fall). John Carroll may be willing to host the Spring 2009 meeting.

4. Fall 2005 local chair's final report: Ulrich Zurcher

A handout was presented with the report. There were 205 attendees (125 students), 69 contributed papers, 4 invited speakers, and 1 workshop. The budget is balanced, and the abstracts are already in print. The meeting was a joint meeting with OH/AAPT and SPS Zone 7. Thanks were expressed to Ulrich and the other organizers for a successful meeting and a nice report.

5. Honors and Awards Committee: Bob Hengehold

For the Maxwell Award, Bob is looking at the officer database to identify people who have served the section for a long time. The database stops in the 1990's, so Bob is filling in the blanks.

For the Fowler Award, there have been informal offers to nominate various people, but Bob hasn't gotten any followups on these informal offers. This award currently includes only Ohio. After the bylaws change, we should change this to include the entire region. No awards will be presented at this meeting.

6. Membership committee, Uwe Trittman for Fred Trexler:

There are only minor changes from the time of the last report. Ohio membership is at 44.7%, which is down a little; Michigan is second at 11.3% and stable; "other" is up a little. As of March 17, 2006, there were 1440 members.

7. Treasurer's report, Jeff Dyck:

The total dues receipts is \$5500, which corresponds to 1375 members. The discrepancy between this number and 1440 is not a problem, as membership numbers are updated quarterly whereas dues are collected yearly.

The net cost to OSAPS for the UD/AFIT meeting has been estimated; the publication of abstracts from this meeting is pending.

Our balance is above \$35,000 now. APS sees us as having a surplus compared to many other sections, and we should use our surplus for section activities and outreach. Various ideas were discussed. We could increase OSAPS contributions to meetings so registration fees are lower and/or there's less need to raise funds locally for meetings. Some sections give prize money for posters; our experience has been that the prizes don't attract people to come to meetings and present posters, but we could reconsider this. We could increase travel money for students, although we're not currently spending all the allotted travel money. An idea related to outreach is to provide prize

money for science fairs at district levels as well as at the state level. We could also fund awards for outstanding SPS students that might include travel to zone meetings.

Jeff can get data from APS about other section's finances in order to make a comparison and to see what other sections do with their surplus.

Other outreach ideas are to run the Optics Workshop for high school teachers at the Fall 2007 meeting—some high school teachers have already expressed interest in this workshop to Critt Ohlemacher. The section could give grants for equipment purchases by high school teachers, or run a speakers bureau. Claude Pruneau pointed out that Wayne State has an aggressive outreach program to high schools involving demonstrations. Wayne State has had a mixed response from high school teachers—some bring their students to campus, but others feel that they're too busy and have too much to cover to do special events. Elizabeth Mann mentioned that Kent State does events for home schoolers, and that teachers express an interest in centralized resources such as Web pages. Science museums would be another place to pursue outreach connections—for example, we could sponsor special physics days at science museums for children and parents. Another good model is the ACS sponsorship of a national chemistry week.

It was agreed that we should have a concentrated time in order to talk about outreach. This should be a special meeting during the summer. We could invite high school teachers to tell us what they want or need us to do.

In regard to the Treasurer's report, Brad Trees heard at the APS Unit Convocation that APS is thinking about charging people for every abstract submitted, not just those published.

8. APS councilor's report: Paul Wolf

An important issue is the election of fellows. APS units (except sections) evaluate most nominees. The units often don't meet their quotas (1%/year). Paul is drafting a letter to the sections urging them to help identify and nominate fellows, and write letters to support nominations; in this way, sections can have some influence over the election of fellows.

Paul Wolf said that he is happy to receive nominations, but we may want to institutionalize this as a regular duty of one of the section officers. Gordon Aubrecht reminded the group that forums are a good venue for nominating people who have made broad contributions. Bob Hengehold looked at the numbers some years ago and concluded that Ohio is low in fellows. Uwe Trittman said that Fred Trexler's numbers indicate that we have 147 fellows in our membership (which is about 10%). According to Bob Hengehold, the deadline for general nominees is during the summer (the deadline for units is April 15), so there is still time to act this year.

9. Election, vice-chair and member-at-large: Uwe Trittman

Mellita Caragiui was elected Vice-Chair; Bob Kaye was elected Member-at-Large. The turnout was about 21%. Very few paper ballots were requested. Thanks to Fred Trexler for running the election.

Paul Wolf suggested that someone should make Mike Crescimanno's usual announcement about joining the section and pass a signup sheet around for names and signatures of APS members who wish to join the section.

10. APS unit convocation: Brad Trees

Brad provided several handouts, including What the Units Do for APS and What APS Does for

Units.

He shared a list of issues APS is concerned with (from John Hopfield, at the convocation):

- Lobbying for physics, physics education
- Nuclear power/weapons/nonproliferation
- Increasing diversity of membership
- Energy policy
- Structure of the national labs
- Intelligent design
- Education of physics teachers
- Redesigning the APS Web page

The units have a net balance of \$4 million --APS wants the units to use this money productively.

APS is encouraging unit and individual participation in PhysicsQuest for fall 2006 (a middle school outreach project).

Other handouts contained ideas for involvement of units in advocacy, and ideas for increasing unit membership.

Also shared at the convocation was information about unit meetings. APS will handle registration at unit meetings for a fee. The NY section has expressed interest in having a joint meeting with OSAPS. This has been discussed in the past, but the geography doesn't seem favorable.

11. Web page: Uwe Trittman for Perry Yaney

We have made the switch to APS hosting from Roger Rollins at Ohio U. The Website is functional (follow links to units, then OSAPS). Perry has corrected most errors and omissions—anyone who notices any others should contact him. He has access to the site, but the editing functions aren't working yet. He will update the Executive Committee information as soon as he has it (Elizabeth George will send it to him, and will also check to make sure the posted minutes are up to date). He will work with Sabine Jeschonnek to get the job bulletin board going. If any other features are desired, we should let him know. He also suggested that we need to thank Roger Rollins for his long service as Webmaster—since he's now retired, we should give him something he can use, such as a clock. The Maxwell Award was also mentioned.

Bob Hengehold said that he would work on improving the Website text describing honors and awards.

Gordon Aubrecht suggested that we should have PDF versions of BAPS materials such as epitomes and abstracts online, if APS allows it.

Uwe will send to Perry his list of physics departments in the region with links.

Uwe also suggested that it would be helpful to have APS maintain an Executive Committee email list so that messages can automatically be sent to the whole Executive Committee without having to look up and type in individual email addresses. Elizabeth George will check into this.

As the section Archivist, Perry would like to receive copies of meeting packets from each meeting, and photos from the meetings. Paul Wolf suggested that we should also send some meeting photos (for example, of award presentations) to APS News.

12. Section name: Uwe Trittmann

In changing our bylaws, we need to replace "Ohio" by "Ohio Region," though the phrase "Ohio and neighboring regions" does not need to be changed.

Elizabeth Mann moved that the language describing section awards be extended to the Ohio Region as necessary; Paul Wolf seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Wolf pointed out that we need to be aware of changing the language from "Ohio" to "Ohio Region" everywhere it's appropriate.

The procedure is that the bylaw change will go first to APS for approval, then to the membership for a vote.

13. New business: Gordon Aubrecht

May 6, 2006 is State Science Day at Ohio State from 8 a.m. to noon. Judges for the Physics prize are needed. This is the second largest special prize at the State Science Fair (typically 120 students sign up for it). There are three awards in two age categories; each category includes awards of \$150, 100, 50. This makes a total of \$600, which is sent from OSAPS to the SOS/AAPT treasurer to distribute. SOS/AAPT has suggested increasing the number of awards (by adding an honorable mention category) and/or the size of the awards. It was agreed that we would discuss this request at the special outreach meeting.

14. Old business:

Uwe Trittmann said that the status of the procedures to help new Executive Committee members is that documents for most of the individual offices exist, but need overall editing. Elizabeth George volunteered to do the overall editing once she gets electronic copies of the documents. The goal is to create a booklet for the whole Executive Committee, which we can put on the Website for information and for use in recruiting new officers.

Gordon Aubrecht updated us on the status of the ISO/IEEE standards resolution. Judy Franz has agreed to talk about this issue to some people who are interested in metrology and get back to Gordon.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth George
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