

Minutes of the Ohio-Region Section of the American Physical Society (unapproved) Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the Ohio-Region Section of the American Physical Society met on Friday, 4 Apr. 2014, in 3301 Williamson College of Business Administration at Youngstown State University. In attendance were:

Laura Van Wormer, Cornel Rablau, Mo Ahoujja (guest, U of Dayton), Gordon Aubrecht (guest, OSU), Tom Oder (guest, YSU), Masoud Kaveh B., Roy Day, Donald Priour (guest, YSU), Dennis Kuhl, Perry Yaney, John Erdei (guest U of Dayton), Gabriela Popa, Robert Hengehold, (guest), Timothy Hamilton (guest, Shawnee State, via Skype)

Cornel Rablau presided over the meeting, calling it to order at 10:05 am. He began with introductions, then shared election results – incoming Vice Chair, Jeff Dyck from John Carroll University and Roy Day, also from John Carroll, whom we thank for serving another term as Treasurer.

I. Business Section

A. Secretary's Report

The minutes were approved unanimously, with one small change.

B. Treasurer's Report: Roy Day

Since the beginning of September, our income from membership dues is \$5992, registration and banquet fees from the University of Cincinnati meeting and small amount of interest income bring the total income to \$10,116 and change. Expenses were minimal this last period because we'd already paid University of Cincinnati and Youngstown State University in advance for their meetings. The only expenses were for students travel grants, there were 10 from the UC meeting, TechFest and the UC meeting BAPS page charges. Remember that we've moved to a model where registration covers abstract fees; we don't charge for them. The final balance for our account is \$30,445.93.

We've been hovering around \$30,000. The dip shown in the balance is from paying in advance for two meetings, but we are now back to normal. Meeting expenses are hovering around \$3,000. We did not receive a meeting report from U of Cincinnati until last night, after the Treasurer's report was prepared. Therefore on last page at bottom expenses for the UC meeting just include those to OSAPS. For OSAPS, the total income from that meeting was \$3720, and expenses were \$6345 for a net cost of \$2625.

From Joe Scanio's email, his account of income was about \$250 more in registration fees. Roy will contact Don Wise and see why the meeting report numbers don't agree with the

reports Roy gets from APS. Q: Could it be from local registration? It shouldn't be, because that money should be sent to APS. From the APS convocation, Cornel remembers a comment that sometimes there are credit card problems by the time it gets to APS. Roy is aware of one problem -- one person registered and joined APS at the same time. Joe counted that as income and we shouldn't. The meeting cost a lot more than \$6345 because our expenses don't include banquet and other expenses. The real question is whether they had local support. Roy responds from the email -- they got \$1000 each from physics department, Dean's office and Provost's office. When they added all their expenses, including parking and lunch, travel for speakers, honoraria, folders, renting meeting venue, coffee etc. the total is \$11,542. So the total income was about \$6720. OSAPS contributed about \$5000, between the advance and honoraria. Banquet costs are usually more than we take in, because students don't pay. We are typically at a cost of about \$3000 for meeting. Bigger schools cost a bit more because there are facility fees and parking. A \$10,000 meeting cost has been normal for quite a while. It is noted that what really matters is what it costs US, which Roy says has been hovering around \$2-3,000. Does that include student travel and speaker honoraria? Yes. We try to make it that the meeting advance is covered by fees that are collected. Honoraria and student travel are our true expenses, ideally. If you are at a smaller school where you don't get as much from Provost, there also usually are not facility fees. We have data for almost 15 years, and given inflation, we are doing pretty well. We can't expect costs to remain constant.

Cornel emphasized that the new registration fee is \$50 for members and \$60 for nonmembers, with a \$10 late fee and no abstract fees. Question: Can the local host waive that? Well, that amount is what we are supposed to send to APS and they are getting it late so they will know that. We don't charge students, so it doesn't really matter for them.

The Treasurer's report passes with unanimous vote.

C. Chair's report: Cornel Rablau

1. Elections. We had elections for Vice Chair and Treasurer. We are grateful to Roy for being willing to run again and for Jeff for being willing to serve through the Chair process. About 250 people voted, about 17-18% of our members, which is pretty good for an uncontested election. Members seem not to like voting in uncontested elections, but also don't seem willing to run. This has been a problem for years -- the solution is to talk to your colleagues and talk them into it. Think about their intrinsic or extrinsic motivations.

The position of Member-at-large was not filled. We are supposed to have up to 4 members-at-large: past chair, student plus two more. We don't have to have 4 but when we go through all the committees that we are supposed to have, each member is supposed to be on 1 or 2 committees. So it seems we do need that number. Question: Is that an

appointment from the chair or committee? Cornel thinks the Chair has the authority to make an appointment, but we can vote. Another question – are past chair and past-past chair members of the Executive Committee? There is nothing in by laws about the past-past chair. The past chair can be one of the members at large, but what do we do if they do not want to? **A motion is made and seconded that Mo Ahoujja be the member at large from now until April 2015. Motion passes unanimously.**

It was realized that Ken Hicks might have been left off emails for this meeting. Cornel requests that if you know a meeting is coming, but aren't getting information, please ask.

More on this topic in New Business.

2. Cornel was contacted by someone from APS News who wanted to do a brief history of OSAPS. Cornel thanks Perry Yaney, Gordon Aubrecht and Bob Hengehold for providing information. We tried to emphasize that regional meetings are a good outlet for low pressure student meetings. It is in the Dec. 2013 issue of APS News. On the 2nd page is an interview with Masoud Kaveh.
3. Congressional Visit Days On Feb. 20-22, 2014, Cornel and Roy attended the APS Unit convocation in DC. Cornel is amazed at how much work goes into the messages that APS crafts for Congress. Currently APS is advocating for “real, sustained and stable budget growth for the science agencies (NSF, NIST, DOE Office of Science).” Cornel asks that we post this so our colleagues are aware of the political activity for science. Cornel also pointed to a graph of Federal Funding of Physical Sciences, and that its amount, at 0.05% of GDP, is essentially in the noise. During the shut down, one of most reasonable comments came from the Chaplain of the Senate, Barry Black – “Deliver us from the hypocrisy of attempting to sound reasonable while being unreasonable.” The budget has gone down and that is not taking into account scientific inflation which is higher than regular inflation. Participating in the Congressional Visit Day is a very interesting experience. If you want to read and learn more, there are a couple of articles in Dec. 2013 and Mar 2014 APS news by Michael Lubell, APS Director of Public Affairs.

APS is a co-sponsor of National Photonics Initiative (NPI). There was not much bang initially, but it is gaining traction as people understand that it applies to things such as laser weapons, for example. There is a web site, search for SPIE-NPI.

4. APS Convocation and APS Corporate Reform. There were general presentations and break out sessions. One issue that stood out to Cornel was a proposal for a section report that we'd send to APS every year. It would be good for us. Question: is it for units as well? So far only sections – at their request, to highlight what they are doing because APS doesn't really know what good work is being done at the local level. In the 1960's

and earlier, we had to battle to continue sections. They started paying attention when they realized how many young physicists are giving their first talks at meetings like this.

The other issue that stood out was a proposal to help handle onsite registration by opening the APS web site for onsite registrations. This would allow them to be done by credit card. This suggestion seemed to be well received. It was pointed out that you can get an app for tablets that allows you to swipe credit cards. Also there is now a section contact at APS, a staff person.

About the corporate reform, please look to APS web site where there are details. APS needs to comply with some legislation or local (DC) laws, as it is registered as a non-profit. Current structure has 3 people of equal rank at the top – the local government wants to have one person they can hold responsible. There was a plenary session dedicated to this to get comments. The major response seemed to be, whatever you do, don't mess it up! Don't let it be in the hands of someone with a business degree and not a physicist. Question: Will this change staffing levels? They are expecting an increase, as several people who are about to retire hold more than one position. There is concern that bureaucracy increases and drains resources. Membership who was present wanted staff to stay at a similar level of service – they are happy with how responsive APS currently is. Timeline is about a year. They are seeking feedback from members.

There are also questions about open access to journals. There are mandates from the federal government to make research results more open. APS has to balance this against the important revenue that the journals generate for APS. For APS, about \$7 million out of a total revenue of \$50 million comes from its journals. On the topic of revenue, it was noted that AIP journals are out of Ohio-Link, which is a big problem for smaller schools.

5. The two biggest issues looking forward for our section are finding a way to keep the membership involved between meetings and elections. One possible idea to keep the membership involved is to have a newsletter sent out via email 6-8 weeks after each meeting. We could then inform members who couldn't attend about previous and future meetings. Good idea, the problem is who is going to do it. If we have 4 members at large, maybe that could be the duties of one of them? We have meeting reports, minutes of meeting – that gives us some material. APS can assist with arts and graphics. The substance we have to provide. The consensus seemed to be that it has to be short – it can't be long with articles. Just basic information. Section membership, past meeting talks and numbers, dates for future meetings. The other thing we have to discuss is elections. Look in New Business for that discussion.

D. Meeting reports

1. Fall 2013 Past Meeting Report: Joe Scanio, University of Cincinnati – via email

There was an interesting mix of participants (total 110): 3 high school teachers, 42 undergraduates, 17 student nonmembers, 1 junior member, 34 members, 7 nonmembers, 6 retired members. This number might be down due to the distance some had to travel to this meeting. However the number of posters is actually slightly higher than the previous meeting, with 37 posters and 35 oral presentations.

2. Future Meetings: Gabriela Popa

Cornel notes that Gabriela has done a nice job getting meetings scheduled far ahead. We haven't done so well distributing the meetings throughout the state, but that is determined in part by who wants to host.

Kent State can't be at today's meeting, but they will be at the Fall meeting – which they are required to do.

April 4-5, 2014: Youngstown State University

Oct. 24-25, 2014: Shawnee State University (contact: Tim Hamilton)

Mar. 27-28, 2015: Kent State

Oct. 16-17, 2015: Cleveland State University

Spring 2016: University of Dayton – they have to work around NCAA tournament dates and a business symposium.

Who contacts people are future dates? Vice Chair. Dennis contacted College of Wooster. Now they focus on taking students to the March meeting, but Dennis put forward the idea that perhaps they could host the Fall meeting. Otterbein is interested (contact: Uwe Trittmann). Can we invite people who might like to host to come to this meeting? Yes, it is an open meeting. Michigan State has had a change of Deans, so they need to let things settle down there before they host again.

Tim Hamilton joins us on Skype, as host of next meeting.

3. Local meeting report: Don Priour – thanks YSU Physics faculty and administrative assistant

There are 80 talks, including plenary talks. For the plenary talks, they tried to find local speakers of eminence, including the after dinner speaker. There are 38 contributed talks, filling 4 sessions, and 37 posters. There are 5 states represented (OH, WV, MI, IN, PA). Local support and income: Dean \$2000, the \$3000 advance from OSAPS, registration fees of about \$1500. This gives a total of \$6500 to work with. Costs – this building \$400, security for stadium club \$500, food \$1800 excluding banquet, banquet \$23/head, planning for 100 people so should break even, \$1300 compensating speakers for travel.

This comes to a total of \$4500 for expenses. Saturday morning there is breakfast at 7:30. Since we are at edge of Ohio, we contacted all western half of Pittsburgh area and West Virginia. Since the next meeting is at Shawnee State, also near WV, the YSU local committee would be happy to share the database of contact information they have created. They are starting a New Faculty Luncheon at a local restaurant. In terms of problems, it was noted that there are several layers of communication – local host, Executive Committee and APS. Is there some way to get more autonomy to the local host so they could send messages? Unfortunately not, APS controls this. Has there been a meeting when we did not delay abstract deadline? No and they do it on purpose. But it means there is no incentive to get abstracts in by the first deadline. Yes but faculty use it as incentive to get students moving. A request was made for hosts to provide street addresses for people who use GPS.

4. Next Meeting Report: Tim Hamilton, Shawnee State, Oct. 24-25, 2014

They have blocked a set of rooms at the Holiday Inn, 1 block from campus, \$104/night, and are also looking at a discount hotel 2 miles away. With the discount hotel, is there any point in blocking rooms? No, usually there is just one conference hotel, then a listing of what else is available. Assuming 50-100 people, how many rooms are needed? The web site is up, things are being added. Theme? We are a smaller school with less physics locally so we wanted a broad theme. It was agreed that this is a good idea. In terms of plenary speakers, how do people choose them? For YSU, they knew everyone they chose, and in one case it was particularly because of topic. The theme is really only relevant for plenary speakers, and is important at larger schools for pulling more graduate students and faculty in. For the Shawnee State meeting, current and interesting topics would be just as useful since it will tend to be a destination, rather than a topic that brings people. A topic that is too specific might drive people away. Advice: don't restrict yourself to plenary speakers who are just within driving distance. A recognizable name can be very helpful. Using people from national labs can be nice because they don't require honoraria and often like going to smaller spaces. There was a recommendation for Geoff Landis who does research on Mars, worked on the original Mars Rover, at NASA Glenn in Cleveland. The local organizing committee will contact industries around and perhaps set up a special session for students. At some institutions, getting a liquor license for the banquet can be a problem. It sounds trivial, but getting sufficient poster holders is really important and sometimes difficult. Invited speakers are first priority, especially at this point in the timeline.

II. Standing Committee Reports

A. Membership Committee:

Student membership report: Masoud Kaveh

Since we seem to have lost the member-at-large who was responsible for this, Cornel asked for the information from APS, an excel file with 1500 names.

Masoud also has created a contact list from Ohio and surrounding states – which include more than 2000 graduate students in 34 physics departments. He sent 3-4 emails with info about meeting. Currently, we have 115 undergraduate members and 433 graduate student members for a total of 548 student members, 38% of our total membership. Cornel notes that if we do a report to APS, part of the information included would include numbers APS provides such as membership numbers. The number of posters has increased slightly in last 4 meetings.

Masoud brought forward some suggestions arising from conversations with officers of various national organizations. Some things SPS does to encourage students, especially undergraduates, is that they meet twice a year, in different zones; they separate grad and undergrad posters because undergrads are shy; they judge and recognize best poster and/or talk; they hold joint APS/SPS meetings – if we let SPS know dates and meeting info, they will let people know. This was done at Ohio State and is usually the decision of the local host. We also had judges at the Wayne State meeting. Such initiatives really depend on organizing and staffing resources of local hosts. In some sections, these things are default rather than left up to local host. We've tried joint APS/AAPT meetings, that gets cumbersome, but if SPS will adjust to us, that would be very helpful. It would be up to local host in the end, but we should encourage it. At the Ohio State meeting, did we have contributions from Michigan? A comment was raised about the idea of separating undergrad and grad -- keeping them together makes them more a part of professional meeting. Also we don't really have a large enough group to separate them. Another suggestion comes from the APS March meeting; there was a section for people only from Denver, huge number of students attended (mostly NOT from Denver!) but they could talk with employers from that area. If we had a session where students could meet with local business people, it might be very attractive to students – even if the students aren't from the area. We have many large companies from Ohio, we could invite them. A company could talk about what a physicist does in their company. At the banquet, we could invite students to sit with company representatives. That's where you get that personal touch. Students are often here because they are forced to come by advisors. Choosing the meeting topic can be very important – if it is not related to their work, they aren't interested in coming. Offering connections to local job opportunities could be very attractive to students. From the section's perspective, we can make suggestions to the local hosts but we can't really require. Finally Masoud suggests that members work on recruiting other members.

B. Honors and Awards: Bob Hengehold

We are going to give two Fowler Awards: David Look at Wright State University, Semiconductor Research Center, an invited speaker and fellow of APS. He has a book published on the Hall Effect, and has done much outstanding work all in Ohio; Bob Brown from CWRU nominated by Mike Crescimanno. He will join us for dinner. He's done many outstanding things including heading this committee, though that isn't what we are honoring him for. A third award that will be given, though not tonight as he can't be here, is to Eric Baer from CWRU also an APS Fellow. He has done superb research in the polymer world. We will present the award either at the Shawnee State or Kent State meeting. We are always looking for more people. We give one Fowler about every two years. That is a good pace. We give the Maxwell Award whenever we get someone, usually for being on the Executive Committee and then doing something else, for example Paul Wolf who was APS councilor after service on Committee.

C. Nomination Committee: Cornel Rablau

These are the things we really need to get hold of. More on this topic in Old Business.

D. APS Councilor's Report

E. Web Master's Report: Perry Yaney

Please! Electronic copies of everything! He is aware that the web site is quite behind. Perry had some trouble logging in for a while and had to send things to APS. He's working on it.

F. TechFest 2013 Report and Request for Funding: Perry Yaney

The number of students is down, for many reasons – weather, competition for times due to all the closings, many schools will no longer hand out flyers, city schools will not share email addresses. All is going well, except it is very difficult to get enough money. Even faithful supporters have decreased in donations. Thanks to OSAPS for continued support all these years. This year Perry had to pull some strings, which can't happen every year. They are considering being associated with a university or museum. They are just a non-profit society, and it is difficult for them to get money. This time Perry also gathered information on where exhibits came from: professional societies (27), universities and colleges (21), companies (7), government organizations (7 – such as National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), community organizations (6), museums (4), robotic organizations (4) and, new this year, 5 Middle school/high school groups. We still have one more year of funding from the last OSAPS appropriation.

G. State Science Fair Report: Gordon Aubrecht, May 10, 2014

Thank you for support over the years! Also a reminder that judges are needed. It is held on the Ohio State University campus, from 7:30-11:00 am. Usually there are 150 projects, so 30 judges are needed. At the moment, there are only 9 judges who have volunteered. This year they are also including 5th and 6th grade projects, in addition to 7th -12th. Gordon can be reached at Aubrect.1@osu.edu.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

1. We need a Council Observer, since Paul Wolf has resigned. Clarification: when we aren't supplying a Section Councillor, the position is for Council Observer. The Section Councillor rotates between sections, and is supposed to communicate to all sections. There are two Section Councillors representing all of the geographic sections. Paul Wolf was a Councillor for a while. When his term ended, he became our Observer. That position is now open. When it is our turn to supply a Section Councillor again, the Observer will be the Councilor. The term is 3 years, and should be filled by a past non-student member of the Executive Committee. Gordon is willing, if appointed. **A motion was made and seconded to appoint Gordon as Council Observer.** Perhaps before deciding, we should see if anyone WANTS to serve. People we might ask include Elizabeth George, David Weeks. The Executive Committee can vote via email. We will also ask past chairs from 4 or 5 years. **The motion was tabled pending this action.** The Observer doesn't go to the meetings unless we pay for it. They are supposed to contact the current councilor in order to get information. They function as an information conduit for us.
2. Nominating Committee – there should be 3 members, 2 are appointed by the chair to 1 year terms; APS appoints one member. You can suggest people to APS – they may or may not choose one from the list. The past chair has been one of the members. Another is usually a member at large. Could we ask Ken Hicks to serve on the Nominating committee? Next year we have to fill Vice Chair and Member at large positions.
3. The membership committee was comprised of one of the members at large – Masoud is filling that role, and we are happy to have him continue to do so. In general it was agreed that the membership report could be annual instead of at every meeting.
4. Proposed newsletter – Cornel will try to put something together in the next two months. He will gather information from the minutes, the chair's report and the past two meetings. There will also be information about the upcoming meeting or two. We also get a once a year mailing to everyone in APS that could be used for this.

V. Future Business

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.