

Spring OSAPS Executive Committee Meeting Minutes -- unapproved
Kent State University Alumni Suite, 27 Mar. 2015

Present: Gordon Aubrecht (OSU), Mo Ahoujja (UD), Roy Day (JCU), Julie Roche (OU), Jeff Dyck (JCU), Michael McMaster (CWRU), Dennis Kuhl (MC), Laura Van Wormer (HC), Gabriela Popa (OU), Snow Balaz (YSU), Veronica Dexheimer (KSU), Tim Hamilton (SSU), Pedru Fodor (CSU), Perry Yaney (UD)

Call to Order and Introductions

Gabriela Popa

Election results were announced and new members welcomed – a new vice chair, Snow Balaz (YSU), a new member at large, Julie Roche (OU), and new student member Michael McMaster (CWRU). It was noted that we are down a member-at-large since Ken Hicks resigned, so Laura will contact Jay Mathews (UD) who ran in this election and see if he would be willing to fill the rest of Ken's term.

Business Reports

I. Secretary's Report

Laura Van Wormer

The minutes were approved after small corrections. Appreciation was expressed to Gordon Aubrecht for standing in as secretary at the previous meeting.

II. Treasurer's report

Roy Day

Annual dues arrive in January and are slightly more than last year, but fairly consistent over the past few years. Other income includes registration and banquet fees collected for the meetings and interest income. For expenses, speaker honoraria is about \$400 less than usual because Shawnee State University only paid for 4; meeting advances are high because we have sent out advances for three meetings; other expenses are as usual. BAPS page charges are what APS charges us to print abstracts. Student representative travel is zero because Masoud just drove over for the day and didn't charge us. **It was agreed that Michael should get expenses for coming today even though he hasn't started official duties yet.** Remember that we didn't have an official student member-at-large last year, Masoud actually had served beyond his term. The second page of the report is historical data, where we've had meetings and their expenses. In the charts on the third page, you can see our total financial resources have been slowly decreasing over the years. Dues payments have been pretty flat, but interest income has reduced considerably, about \$1000 less than 6 years ago. On the fourth page are meeting expenses. The graph is somewhat meaningless, as the calculations were done differently starting in 2012. They now only show the actual cost to OSAPS, including student travel. It more clearly shows us how we are spending our money. Note that the data for Shawnee State is not correct and should be marked preliminary.

There was considerable conversation about meetings and other expenses in response to the information that we are spending more each year than we are taking in. The cost to us of the meetings roughly equals what we are getting in dues. The cost for TechFest and Science Day is

the extra that we are spending, in some senses. It is not unreasonable for our dues to subsidize meeting costs. Expenses are about \$3000/meeting and we are committed to paying about \$3000 in outreach every year. We raised meeting expenses for two reasons – so we didn't have to charge for BAPS charges and to try to come into better balance. (The new rates took effect at the last meeting, but the last meeting was small, so it was relatively more expensive.) We can't expect meetings to be self-sustaining – there is no mechanism for the host to get money to pay student travel which is something we are definitely paying out of pocket.

For a very successful meeting, registration might cover a lot, the banquet is usually very expensive because we subsidize students, and we pay speakers honoraria. Has the host ever sent back money? Yes, YSU but we have never had any meeting that was completely free to us. Spring 2007 is empty because we never got a report from that meeting. In the past, we didn't pay honoraria, so that expense was very uneven depending on how local institutions handled that. We are committed to paying a maximum of \$400/speaker, though the local host could add to that. At this meeting, (Kent State) travel expenses came to about as much as the honoraria. The local host is responsible for travel expenses. Is the meeting cost different depending on how many people attend? Not usually. Cost is usually insensitive to attendance, because banquet fees are roughly balanced by registration fees. What makes a difference in meeting expenses? The local host contribution matters. A big factor is also the fraction of registrations which are students or other non-paying groups, because their banquet fees are subsidized. But we want them to come. The \$3000 advance helps to make initial arrangements since the registration and banquet fees go straight to APS. Student travel is highly variable. That is why YSU was expensive, we spent \$1700 on student travel. We have 27 applications for student travel this year, each of which asking for \$100! We have authorized \$2000, so we'll have to decide how to handle that. What are final charges? That is when local host asks for extra money if expenses were above what they had income to cover – we don't expect local physics departments to bear extra costs. Some universities will, but not all can. Typically, if universities have high facility fees, then local organizers need to get local support to cover that, and it usually works out that way.

The Treasurer's report is approved.

III. Report on the APS convocation *Dennis Kuhl*

Roy Day, Jeff Dyck and Dennis attended. Note particularly that APS expects that we'll have to modify our bylaws under the new governance system. The New England section found there was quite a lot they had to change. Sections strongly suggested that APS include an opt-in button on meeting registration web sites. It is important for us – it doesn't cost the person anything, but we get \$4/person.

Other thoughts for us:

- We could have an industrial physicist come to a meeting, perhaps meeting with students to talk about career paths. FIAP is about how to enhance collaboration with industry – there could be panels talking about careers; APS is trying to link regional sections with industrial collaboration groups though so far only in larger metropolitan areas. It was noted that there has been a doubling of physics bachelor's degrees from

2000 to now (4000 to 8000). When compared to the number of biology majors or engineers, this is still tiny! Forbes listed physics in top 10 majors for getting a job.

- People at APS don't know about our Maxwell and Fowler awards – it would be nice to inform them. There should be some information on the web site. Perry reports that this is an ongoing problem – the sections are somewhat autonomous; APS is more focused on topical units.
- We might tell APS about the outreach we've done, which they used to promote.
- We should ask every physics department to have a link on their web site to the OSAPS web site. It was pointed out that many departments don't have control over their web site, though perhaps links could be placed in a Student Resources section or on a Links page. Department or individual faculty could put it on their research page.
- Many people don't appreciate the value of regional sections. It might be useful to compile a list of reasons why we are useful. APS is considering distributing a brochure about regional sections. Dennis volunteered to do a survey after this meeting regarding what is valuable about these meetings. It was suggested that he might check with Fred Trexler in Michigan who did that in 2004. And possibly contact department chairs about putting up a link.
- Dennis also brought a page on membership statistics. We are the 2nd or 3rd smallest regional section. The newest is the Mid-Atlantic region – first meeting had over 450 people. No one knows how that will be sustained, but it was a very successful first meeting.
- APS is willing to serve as web master if we give them permission. They are already hosting, but IT people are willing to do more. Perry says access has been a problem, and people in Washington haven't known why. Question to Perry, do you want to continue as web master or should secretary and treasurer give updates to national IT person? Perry is not sure he can do anything he wants on web page now. It is not that they'll design a new web page, but they'll just help post things to keep communications open. They also have a design team to help us figure out what we want up there. For example, we could perhaps have local science news relevant to the region on that site. Perry would like to see a counter so we know how many visits. Perry finds that there is a small area that he can put stuff in, the rest is fixed. Perry will follow up on that. His experience is that they take away freedom.

IV. Chair's Report

Gabriela Popa

We had a great meeting at Shawnee State last year. Thinking about the brochure that Cornel proposed, Gabriela is considering sending an update about 6 weeks after the meeting, to share statistics and what happened at the meeting. In the by-laws, one of the chair's duties is to write a thank you letter to the local host. She is considering writing a thank you letter to everyone who serves. Roy reminds her that APS will help design a layout for a brochure, and put it into html.

Meeting Reports

1. Past Meeting Report

Tim Hamilton

At Shawnee State, we had 42 pre-register, and another 30 registrations onsite. There might have been 4 no-shows. Six states were represented. There were 4 invited talks 22 contributed talks, and 13 posters. The APS file didn't split registration and banquet fees. Roy's numbers are slightly higher than APS numbers. Banquet fees were almost exactly the same as registration fees. The total expenses above income and support will be paid to Shawnee State, of \$451.41 (correction from report). Invited talks were videotaped, and will be put up on the web site when they are processed, along with some photos. Where do onsite forms come from? APS provides them, same as the PDF on web site. The one catch is that people will pay in cash, so they had to write out receipts. Dennis: APS is working on web site for onsite registration. Students are free, even though registering onsite? Yes. Tim had extra banquet seats available for onsite banquet registrations.

2. Current meeting report

Veronica Dexheimer

They had hoped the conference would pay for itself, since they were able to get \$2000 from the Provost, with the intention of paying for invited speakers. It didn't work out as planned. So many students registered that revenue was much less than expected. We will have to get honorarium money from OSAPS. 114 out of 158 registrants paid nothing (students, retirees and teachers). The department could only pay for a small amount of material costs. They planned for 200 participants, which meant expenses of \$7000. Found out they couldn't bring their own food and beverages. Roy comments that the income looks pretty good, and there is good support from university which will pay for the venue so that overall things look pretty good. One speaker was from Brookhaven, so they cannot accept honoraria and pay their own travel. Two were from OSU, so low travel expenses, and one from farther away. Why did two Chinese students pay \$90? Unknown. They didn't register for the banquet, but they are coming from abroad. More than 50 have requested to give a poster.

We need to make a decision about student travel grants. We have requests for \$2700, but have only pre-authorized \$2000. Since room costs are lower here, **we decided to divide the \$2000 among applications who submitted requests on time. We should include a line for naming roommate and a checkbox for whether they are presenting a poster or talk.**

3. Future Meetings:

Fall 2015 Cleveland State, Oct. 16 & 17, 2015 Contact person: Pedru Fodor

Spring 2016 University of Dayton, April 8 & 9, 2016 Contact person: Mo Ahoujja. Topic: Nanophotonics II

We can't announce a Fall 2016 host, but we have identified many who don't want to do it. We are still waiting to hear from the University of Toledo; they last hosted in 2000.

Jeff is looking for who has a string to pull at different places, but ends up going to the chair of the department. We are interested in geographic representation, but first priority is just to have a host. Start talking to everyone you know. Suggestions included Otterbein (They are interested but timing is not good.) Wooster is out. Wittenberg? Bowling Green?

Membership

Mo Ahoujja (his last term, will become Julie's job)

Slight rise in both undergraduate and graduate membership, but it seems to stay within about 50 students. Our total membership has decreased slightly over the years; it seems to vary between 1400 and 1500. Mo also provided the breakdown by state, with the highest numbers being from Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. Do we have members from WV? They are now probably in Mid-Atlantic, but it was about 4. The Prairie section started after spring 2009, and our numbers dropped after that and have stayed relatively steady. It's somewhat surprising that we have so many members from Illinois and Indiana, though we do have the eastern portion of Indiana. Steady membership numbers might imply that we have saturated in our audience, so outreach might be useful. We can send as many emails as we want to OSAPS members, but only 1 email to all APS members in this area. Dennis will use info from survey to send an email encouraging attendance at OSAPS meetings. We will make an announcement to have students who aren't members sign up for a free year of APS and OSAPS membership.

Honors and Awards Handouts from *Bob Hengehold*

There are no awardees at this meeting.

Nomination Committee Gabriela will be taking over as former chair. Since Ken Hicks is no longer serving, we are down a member-at-large. **Laura will contact Jay Mathew at U of Dayton to see if he is willing to serve and finish out Ken's term.**

APS Councilor's report

Gordon Aubrecht

APS didn't know Gordon was elected, so he wasn't invited to the meeting. At the meeting, they passed transition language so that people on committees could stay on them even though by-laws changed, then interviewed Kate Kirby for APS CEO for three years. There is a meeting this month that he didn't know about and a meeting next month but he has a conflict. Dennis – no one knew anything about APS council observers. Council observers can attend but have no voice. There are two councilors representing all 10 sections. Following each APS council meeting, it was recommended that they update section leaders. Gordon – most of these meetings are electronic.

Web Master's Report

Perry Yaney

The discussion took place as part of the APS Councilor's report – see that section above for relevant information.

TechFest Report

Perry Yaney

TechFest 2015 had 2148 youth registered, so well over 3000 for the two days. They have been doing this for 13 years on President's Day weekend, because so many have Monday off. A retired physicist from U of Dayton is shadowing Perry and will take over eventually. Perry thanks us as one of the more dependable sponsors. Any support that we can offer is very much appreciated. Roy – TechFest uses nearly 1/3 of our annual income and we've somewhat overcommitted ourselves. We have raised our meeting fees and don't yet know how that will

affect our budget. It should reduce the meeting cost a little bit. We've had just one meeting, though with small attendance, with the new cost structure, so we don't have much data yet.

State Science Day Report

Gordon Aubrecht

Our other outreach is State Science Day, which we have authorized to spend \$1000, though the cost is actually less. Last year it was \$750. Prizes awarded are 5th and 6th grade 1st prize, 7-9 1st 2nd 3rd and 10-12 1st, 2nd, 3rd. State Science Day is May 16th this year. Gordon would really appreciate judges; it takes just one morning. He can be reached at Aubrecht.1@osu.edu. The request is for up to \$1000, though we've never spent all of it. OSAPS is the sole supporter, and SOSAAPT provides the bulk of the judges. A suggestion was made to recruit students from NEOMEDD who are trying to build resumes. Our support goes to physics prizes, students have to sign up for an award. **A motion is made and approved to limit the award to \$750.** Awards are \$150 for 1st, \$100 for 2nd and \$50 for 3rd. Sometimes two 1sts or seconds have been awarded, for example. **For TechFest, motion and approval are for \$1400 for one year.**

New Business

Julie asks if we want to lobby on the state level, like the Physics on the Hill at the national level. Snow agrees to work with Julie and look into that. Just getting physics in front of legislators can be helpful.

Tim Hamilton – The American Astronomical Society has just allowed their first regional section, in the Kentucky area. They are still writing by-laws, so will be looking to us for a model. For astronomers in Ohio the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) is member run, and will be observing the entire night sky every 3 days for 10 years.

Adjourned about 12:40 pm.