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Sunday, 30 April 2000

The APS Topical Group on Precision Measurement

Long Beach, California

Peter Bender called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Approximately 12 members were present.

Election results: In the recent Topical Group elections, Blayne Heckel was elected Vice Chair, and John Prestage and David DeMille were elected Members-at-Large. Terms of the new officers began with the close of the 2000 Annual Meeting. At that time, Richard Deslattes became Chair-Elect, Peter Mohr became Chair, and Peter Bender became Past-Chair. Continuing Members-at-Large are Siu-Au Lee, Anton Zeilinger, Ralph Conti, and Steven Lamoreaux. The nominating committee consisted of Steven Lamoreaux (chair), Larry Hunter, William Klipstein, and Luis Orozco.

Membership statistics: The official membership count for FY 2000 is 431, which is 1.01% of the APS membership. This is a decrease, both in absolute and relative numbers from previous years. For FY 1999, the corresponding numbers were 450 and 1.08%. For FY 1996, they were 482 and 1.18%. There was some discussion of how to increase the membership by recruitment.

Financial report: As of March 31, 2000, the balance in the Topical Group account was \$13,717.70, an increase of about \$2000 from the year before. For the current fiscal year, which began in July, the total income was \$2,870.51, of which \$2,155.00 was from membership dues and \$715.51 from investment income. Expenses for the current fiscal year were \$2,047.99, of which \$1,447.99 was for newsletters and \$600 for young scientist travel grants. The only anticipated expense for the remaining part of the fiscal year was the cost of the Executive Committee lunch.

Discussion: The topic of broadening the scope of the Topical Group was discussed. Suggestions had been made to include more application-oriented topics. However, more interest was expressed in increasing the membership by active recruitment of those working in the precision measurement and fundamental constants area who are not yet members. Blayne Heckel will explore setting up a Membership Committee.

Rogers Ritter noted that the Instrument and Measurement Science Topical Group had once been interested in merging with the GPMFC but had since lost interest. Sponsoring joint sessions with other groups or divisions was suggested. The upcoming NIST Centennial could serve as a focus for joint sessions. There was some discussion of meeting jointly with DAMOP rather than with the April APS Meeting in some years. The possibility of sponsoring an invited session at the March APS Meeting was also brought up.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Itano, Secretary-Treasurer