

Council establishes Panel on Public Affairs

Establishment of a Panel on Public Affairs (POPA) and expansion of the role of the Nominating Committee were among the major accomplishments of the APS council during its New York meeting on 25 October. It also resolved that future chairmen of the Nominating Committee are to be chosen by the membership-at-large in advisory elections and then appointed to office by the council.

POPA will function as a standing committee to initiate and organize APS activities pertaining to physics-related public and government affairs. Its chairman will be elected by the council from a slate of candidates prepared by the Nominating Committee and will serve for three years. The APS vice-president elect will have a one-year membership and sixteen other members, also elected by the council, will serve staggered three-year terms. An election within POPA will select three members to serve on its Steering Committee along with the APS vice-president elect and the POPA chairman. The five-member Steering Committee will investigate new activities for the society and make recommendations to the council for programs based on its findings. It is hoped that the POPA chairman will be elected during the council's Anaheim meeting in January and that all remaining POPA members will be elected during its Washington, D.C. meeting in April.

The council's charge to the Nominating Committee has broadened that committee's duties to include preparation of slates of candidates not only for the offices of APS vice-president elect and councillors-at-large but also for the following standing committees: POPA, Committee on Professional Concerns, Committee on Education, the Nominating Committee and the APS Representatives to the AIP Governing Board. The slates must be larger than the number of vacancies to be filled. The Nominating Committee is also responsible for preparing a file of potential nominees, arranging self-nomination procedures for society members and presenting to prospective candidates copies of the charge of office and an indication of the amount of time its duties will require.

The council voted unanimously to approve a motion calling for an advisory



election by the membership-at-large for the post of Nominating Committee chairman-elect; the council will then appoint the winner of the election to office. The chairman-elect will become chairman during his or her second year of office. Traditionally the immediate past APS president was elected by the council as Nominating Committee chairman. Because an advisory election cannot be held this year, the chairman will be elected by the council at its Anaheim meeting in January.

The executive secretary is currently soliciting applications for two staff positions involving work in support of POPA, the Nominating Committee and implementation and development of present and future society programs.

Committee on applications of physics created

The report of the APS *ad hoc* committee on applied physics concentrated on problems of the status of applied physics within the society and the need for improved interaction between the applied and basic physics communities. Problems include negative attitudes among basic physicists toward applied physics that diminish its recognition and respectability, low motivation

among physicists to enter applied physics, APS meetings and publications that do not meet the needs of applied physicists and inadequate communication between APS and various applied-physics societies.

The committee concluded that establishing a separate division of applied physics would not be the best way to alleviate these difficulties because interest in applied physics and technology exists in all divisions of the society. It recommended instead the formation of a pan-divisional committee on applications of physics whose members will include a representative and an alternate from each division and which will be responsible for promoting and coordinating applied physics affairs within APS.

The council established the pan-divisional committee and charged it as follows:

- ▶ To select and organize topical conferences and symposia,
- ▶ To investigate the usefulness of problem-oriented workshops,
- ▶ To increase the participation of applied physicists in APS organization and functions,
- ▶ To study the problem of APS publications and offer to supply editorial guidance to the *Journal of Applied Physics* and *Applied Physics Letters*,
- ▶ To establish close ties with the committee on education and explore the means of altering undergraduate and graduate curricula to increase the visibility and prestige of applied physics,
- ▶ To establish close liaison with the panel on public affairs.

Page charge for *Physical Review* rises

APS Treasurer Joseph A. Burton (Bell Labs) has reported to the council that inflation has made it necessary to return the page charge for *Physical Review* from \$65 to the old rate of \$70. Since decreasing the page charge did not appreciably influence the number of honored pages, this increase is expected to have little effect. Resolutions calling for budgeting publications-related items as publication expenses rather than as dues-related expenses passed. Funds will, therefore, be made available to support new society programs without an increase in dues. □

A more detailed account of the proceedings of the October council meeting will be published in the 15 December issue of the *Bulletin of the American Physical Society*.