

Council moves to establish division on physics history

The Council has approved in principle the formation of a new Division of the History of Physics. A significant number of members signed a petition suggesting that APS form such a division to stimulate scholarly work on the history of physics and to help organize and sponsor historical sessions or symposia at the APS meetings, as well as special historical conferences.

The *ad hoc* committee established to consider the proposal for a history division received a very favorable initial response from other AIP member societies, the AIP Center for the History of Physics and the History of Science Society. The *American Journal of Physics* and the *Reviews of Modern Physics* have both expressed interest in having more articles on the history of physics.

Although the existing History of Science Society does include some papers on the history of physics in its meetings, these papers are sometimes considered too technical for sessions of that society. An APS division would provide the proper outlet for these contributions.

APS would not be the first scientific society to establish a history division. The American Chemical Society, the American Astronomical Society (see page 85) and the American Geological Society all have the equivalent of a division on history in their fields.

Comments from the other APS divisions are being sought and a set of bylaws for the division is now being drafted. Members who have comments can send them to W. W. Havens Jr at the APS office.

POPA plans coal utilization and breeder safety studies

During its January meeting the APS Council approved a Panel on Public Affairs coal utilization study initiated by Bernard Cooper (West Virginia University) and gave tentative approval for a study on the safety of breeder reactors. Both studies are expected to start this year and last approximately 18 months. Funding for the studies is now being sought from the Department of Energy



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and other Federal agencies.

Louis Rosen, the new chairman of POPA, invites suggestions on the scope of these studies and nominations for committee membership. Members should have a degree of technical competence and objectivity.

Council also authorized the formation of a POPA subcommittee for international scientific activities and proposed that the subcommittee initially emphasize collaboration with physicists in Latin American countries to assist them to maintain quality physics programs and develop indigenous scientific and technological capabilities. Comments on this initiative and nominations for subcommittee membership are also solicited.

Send all communications to Louis Rosen, Mail Stop 850, Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, P.O. Box 1663, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545.

Scholarships available to minority undergraduates

The APS Committee on Minorities in Physics, in collaboration with the AIP Corporate Associates, has organized a new scholarship program for minority undergraduate students in physics to be sponsored by US corporations. The purpose of this program is to increase the level of minority-group participation in physics.

Each scholarship will be supported by a corporation and administered by the APS. A scholarship will consist of \$2500, of which \$2000 will be awarded to the student and \$500 to the host institution. The scholarship may be renewed with the approval of the APS Selection Committee, the host college and the corporate sponsor. The program is open to any black, Hispanic or native-American US citizen who is a high-school senior or college undergraduate.

Although the program was approved only in January by the APS Council, it proceeded rapidly. Educational institutions and potential sponsors were approached prior to the 31 March deadline so that the program could be implemented this year. For 1980-1981 the Committee expects about 20 scholarships will be available. Inquiries about the program and applications for 1981-1982 scholarships can be directed to the APS Committee on Minorities, Scholarship Program, 335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Council elects new committee members

The Council has elected the following new members of statutory and standing committees:

Executive Committee (1-year term): Lewis Branscomb (IBM) and Maurice Goldhaber (Brookhaven).

Nominating Committee (2-year term): Joseph Ballam (SLAC); Lewis Branscomb; Kurt Gottfried (Cornell) and Fay Ajzenberg-Selove (University of Pennsylvania). Raymond Orbach (UCLA) has been chosen chairman-elect by the members.

Publications Committee (3-year term): Patricia M. Dehmer (Argonne) and Melvin Lax (CUNY).

Audit Committee (3-year term): Morrel H. Cohen (University of Chicago).

Panel on Public Affairs (3-year term): Nina Byers (UCLA); J. William McGowan Jr (University of Western Ontario); Homer A. Neal (Indiana University); Thomas H. Stix (Princeton University) and Horace D. Taft (Yale).

In addition, these committees have incumbent and *ex-officio* members. □