



American Chemical Society

Division of Biological Chemistry

Minutes of the Spring 2004 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Division of Biological Chemistry

A lunch meeting was held at the White House Restaurant, 887 South Anaheim Blvd, from 12:30 - 2:30 on Monday, March 29, 2004.

Attending: Vern Schramm, Richard Armstrong, Dale Poulter, Hung-wen (Ben) Liu and John Richard

(1) **Minutes of Fall Meeting:** The minutes of the Fall Business Meeting of the Division of Biological Chemistry Committee at the New York ACS meeting were read and approved.

(2) **Executive Committee Report presented by Vern Schramm.** The Division is in good shape. The Chair is working on a yearly schedule of the Division's activities that will serve as an operating manual.

(3) **Secretary's Report presented by John Richard.** The Secretary presented brief proposals for two one-day symposia at Regional Meetings of the ACS: (i) A symposium on "Biopolymers, Biomimetics and Beyond" that is being organized by Richard Cheng at SUNY, Buffalo, Department of Chemistry for the Northeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Rochester, N.Y., October 31 - Nov. 3, 2004. (ii) A symposium on the "Evolutionary Development of Function in Biology" that is being organized by Kevin Dalby at The University at Texas, Division of Pharmaceutical and Bioorganic Chemistry for the Southwestern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Fort Worth Texas, September 29 - October 2, 2004. These proposals each requested \$1500 to cover speaker registration and travel expenses. A motion to fund these symposia was approved unanimously.

The Chair mentioned an informal request from Ted Widlanski to fund a symposium at the Central Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Indianapolis, IN, June 2-4, 2004. It was agreed that this symposium should also be funded.

(4) **Treasurer's Report presented for Peter Tipton by Vern Schramm:** The financial condition of the division is sound. One requirement to maintain tax exempt status is that the Division receive no more than one-third of its income from return on investments. Investment income has approached this cutoff in recent years. However, the percentage of the Division's income from investments will be reduced in 2004 and beyond by an increase in revenue from member dues that were raised from \$6 - 10 in 2004; and, by an increase in the contribution to the Division from the ACS. This should eliminate the threat of the loss of tax exempt status.

It was agreed that the Division should not be overly thrifty, but should work to use its increased revenue creatively to advance the common interests of our members.

(5) **Meeting Issues:** Carol Fierke was complimented for putting together an excellent program at the 226th meeting of the ACS in New York.

The budget for the Philadelphia Meeting of the ACS, August 22 - 26 was briefly discussed. There will be an increase in support for the symposia at this meeting, as approved in the Division's Fall Business Meeting. Vern Schramm informed the committee of a plan by the program organizer, Cynthia Burrows, to display posters related to one of the themed symposia in the back of the lecture hall on the day of the symposium. This will have the effect of providing increased exposure of these posters to a targeted audience. All posters will also be displayed during the scheduled poster session.

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The travel awards to attend the summer ASC meeting were discussed briefly. The number of awards will be increased from 10 to 20 for 2004, and awards will be limited this year to one per faculty supervisor.

It was agreed that the Division should continue to support for the Winter Enzyme Mechanism and Gordon Research Conferences at \$2,000/conference.

Pacifichem 2005: An informal subcommittee consisting of the Program Chairs for the 2003 (Carol Fierke), 2004 (Cynthia Burrows) and 2005 (Vernon Anderson) ACS national meetings along with Dale Poulter was charged during the September business meeting with contacting members who might be interested in organizing symposia for the Pacifichem conference that will be held in December of 2005. The Secretary agreed to contact this committee to check on their progress.

It was suggested that the Division provide \$2000 support for each of our symposia at this Conference and it was generally agreed that this was a good idea.

(6) **Council Issues and Division Funding:** The Chair reminded the committee that the ACS contribution of members dues to the division will double in 2004.

(7) **Bylaws:** The discussion of amendments in the bylaws that began in the Division's last Business Meeting was continued. There were two additional changes in these amendments. The first concerned the process of selection of the Nominating Committee. In the past this Committee was elected by the Division's members. The proposed amendment will state that this committee be selected by the Officer's of the Division. The second is a section that describes the procedure for appointment of an Awards Committee and language that prohibits members from receiving frequent awards from the Division.

The advantages for these changes were discussed and the amended bylaws were approved unanimously. These amendments will be placed before the Division's members for ratification on a ballot that that will be included with the Summer Newsletter.

(8) **Awards Status for the Division of Biological Chemistry.** The possibility of a loss of funding for the Repligen award and the strategy for locating alternative sponsors of this award were discussed.

(9) **Newsletter and Mailings.** It was decided that the division will continue with its current practice of mailing its newsletter.

(10) **Website.** There was agreement that much could be done to increase the value of the Division's website to its members. Discussion of how this might be accomplished was deferred until the summer business meeting.