



American Chemical Society

Division of Biological Chemistry

Minutes of the Spring 2005 Business Meeting of the Division of Biological Chemistry - March 14, 2005 Traatoria Mare & Monti - San Diego California

Attended by: Vernon Anderson, Richard Armstrong, Mark Distefano, George Kenyon, Dewey McCafferty, John Richard, Peter Tipton and Peter Tonge.

(1) Spring Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the Fall meeting of the Executive Committee at the Philadelphia ACS meeting were read and approved.

(2) Report of the Executive Committee Presented by Richard Armstrong.

The Chair reviewed the 2004 ACS Technical Division Annual Reports by the Division's Secretary and Treasurer. He noted the increase in the Division's outreach programs through the support of symposia at Regional Meetings of the ACS and support for conferences such as the Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference. The Chair stated that the financial health of the Division is good. However, for the first time in recent years the division ran a deficit. George Kenyon noted that the Division risks losing its status as a tax exempt organization, if it fails to maintain the proper balance between income from investments, membership dues and other sources. The Chair said that that this has in the past been a source of concern, but that the situation has improved in recent years.

The Chair informed the Committee that the previous Chair, Vern Schramm, is still working on the Operations manual for our Division. This is expected to be completed by the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Chair mentioned that the Division was considering providing funds to support a Biotechnology symposium.

(3) Report of the Secretary Presented by John Richard: The Secretary noted that the amendments to our bylaws had been approved, and that this will lead to changes in the structures of the Division's committees.

Program Committee. The responsibilities of the Division's Program Chair have been passed on to the Program Committee. The committee will consist of four members, with one new member being elected each year for a term of four years. The Chair of the committee is the member who is in their third year of service. The Chair will assume the responsibilities of the former Program Chair, but will have the option of delegating some of these to the other committee members. These changes should lead to a decrease in the work load of the Program Chair, and facilitate an increase in the level of the Division's participation in National and Regional meetings. Tadhg Begley, the most recently elected committee Program Committee member has volunteered to work to identify members interested in hosting symposia at Regional meetings.

Nominating Committee. The size of the nominating committee will remain at three, but the term limit has been increased from one to three years and the number of members elected yearly will decrease from three to one. It will take three years to elect a full committee under this new format, so that two members of the current committee will be asked to extend their terms from the one year term in force at the time of their election.

The secretary mentioned that no new nominations had yet been received for the Eli Lilly award. George Kenyon stated that the lack of nominations for this award has been a problem for years, due to the low age limit of 38 for this award. The Secretary encouraged the committee to send him names of worthy candidates. He will bring these candidates to the attention of their respective Department Chairs in an effort to obtain nominations.

(4) Report of the Treasurer Presented by Peter Tipton: The division is in good financial shape. There has been a significant increase in revenue due to the recent increase in dues and support from the ACS. There have been no changes in investment strategy or sources of income since the last Annual Report filed in March of 2004.

The division ran a deficit of \$29,726 last year. This appears to be due mainly to an increase from \$4,800 in 2003 to 22,984 in 2004 in the costs associated with the twice yearly printing and mailing of our Newsletter. After the meeting the Secretary checked the 2002 Treasurer report and noted that the publication costs for that year, \$15,720, were roughly midway between the costs for 2003 and 2004. This suggests that some of the printing costs for 2003 were paid in 2004. The treasurer promised to investigate this further.

The Treasurer explained the problems created by the Divisions lack of a formal policy on reimbursement of officers for expenses incurred in attending Business Meetings of the Division's Officers. It was pointed out that speakers are reimbursed up to \$1200 for expenses at the Fall ACS meeting, and that it would be fair to reimburse officers at the same level. It was noted that there are a lot of officers eligible to attend this meeting (twenty). The expenses resulting from the attendance of one half of these officers at two yearly meetings could run to \$24,000. This is nearly twice last years expenditure of ca \$12,500 and a sizable fraction of the Division's 2004 income of \$65,000/year. The sentiment was the reimbursement should be set at \$1200/meeting, and a motion to this effect was passed unanimously. It was agreed that this limit might need to be reduced if the costs proved excessive.

(5) Programs at ACS meetings Presented by Vernon Anderson.

(a) 230th ACS National Meeting, Washington, DC, August 28 – September 1, 2005. Vernon Anderson presented a list of speakers for the Division's program. This was praised as excellent by the Committee. A lack of gender balance in this program was noted, which the Program Chair agreed to address.

Alan Ferst's failure to respond to repeated requests to assist in the organization of a symposium to recognize his receipt of the Alfred Bader award in Bioinorganic or Bioorganic Chemistry was noted. Vernon Anderson and Richard Armstrong agreed to make a concerted effort to get and hold his attention.

(b) *Joint Symposium with the 2006 ASBMB 100th Anniversary Meeting, San Francisco, California, April 1 – 5, 2006.* The possibility of organizing a symposium with the ASBMB at the 100th anniversary meeting of this organization was discussed. There was general agreement that this symposium should focus on the work of Ernie Rose. Vernon Anderson agreed to contact ASBMB about this symposium. The Executive Committee agreed to move their Spring Business meeting for 2006 from ACS meeting in Atlanta to the ASBMB Meeting in San Diego.

(c) *231st Annual ACS Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia.* The Division decided to concentrate on organizing a symposium at the ASBMB 100th Anniversary Meeting. It was understood that this would reduce the Divisions presence at the Spring ACS meeting.

(d) *Travel Awards for the 2005 Washington ACS meeting.* It was suggested that we are not making all worthy candidates aware of the Travel Awards to attend the ACS meeting. Suggestions to increase the number of worthy applications were solicited. It was agreed that an EMAIL message sent to our members at about the time of the ACS abstract deadline would attract the attention of those already committed to attending the meeting.

(6) Nominations Presented by Peter Tonge. Peter Tonge reviewed the open offices for the 2006 elections and said that a slate of candidates would be ready by June.

(7) Award Status for the Division of Biological Chemistry Presented by Richard Armstrong. The secretary repeated his request that Committee members work to identify worthy nominees for the Eli Lilly award. Several candidates were put forward. The status of a possible new award in Biological Chemistry was discussed briefly.

(8) Newsletters and Mailings Presented by John Richard. The option of moving from a hard-copy to an electronic mailing of the Division's Newsletter in order to save money was discussed. It was decided that this was possible and desirable for the Winter Newsletter. However, the Summer Newsletter also contains the election ballot. Since it is not possible to conduct the Division's elections electronically, the need to continue mailing this ballot would limit the Division's savings to the printing costs of the Newsletter. The secretary agree to obtain a breakdown of the costs of the summer mailing. It was decided that for the time-being there will be no change in the method of distribution of the Summer Newsletter. The secretary will check briefly during the next meeting of Executive Committee to insure that there is still a consensus to eliminate the mailing of the hard-copy of the Winter News letter.

(9) Update of Website. Darrell Davis' many years of volunteer service in maintaining the Division's website were noted and praised. There was a strong sentiment expressed to upgrade this Website, and a reluctance to ask Darrell to do this on a volunteer basis. The secretary noted that the quality of the work produced by Iserloh Design. It was agreed that he should initiate contact with Ulrich Iserloh to obtain an estimate of the costs of producing a Website for the Division. Peter Tipton stated and the Committee agreed that this Website should include some sort of bulletin board with postings of job openings.