



American Chemical Society

Division of Biological Chemistry

Minutes of the Spring 2006 Business Meeting of the Division of Biological Chemistry - Monday April 3, 2006, 1:00 pm Jeanty at Jack's Restaurant, San Francisco CA

Attended by: Tina Amyes (for John Richard), Vernon Anderson, Richard Armstrong, Eric Brown, Sheila David, Carol Fierke, John Gerlt, Lila M. Gierasch, Eugene Mueller, Peter Tonge.

(1) Fall Meeting Minutes Presented by Tina Amyes. The minutes of the Fall 2005 Business Meeting of the Committee at the Washington ACS meeting were approved with the change from "Spring" to "Fall" in the title.

(2) Report of the Treasurer Presented by Eugene Mueller. The budget for the current year has been corrected to reflect last year's overspend. The Division has no long-term financial problems and there is a healthy income from current investments because the Division has a recently matured Certificate of Deposit. The Treasurer's report was approved.

(3) Report of the Executive Committee Presented by Richard Armstrong. This report is covered by the Secretary's Report that was prepared by John Richard (see below).

(4) Report of the Secretary Presented by Richard Armstrong. The report was prepared by John Richard. Attention was brought to Item 14 of the report concerning the Vision and/or Mission Statement of the Division. Richard Armstrong said he believes that this statement is contained within the byelaws of the Division. This could/should be verified. It was proposed that a clear Mission Statement might be helpful for recruiting new Division members and that it should be prominently displayed on the new website. The committee members were encouraged to read the report at their leisure.

(5) ACS Meetings Issues Presented by Vernon Anderson.

(a) Fall 2006 ACS Meeting in San Francisco. There is a very strong planned program for this meeting, including a whole day devoted to the subject of Protein Folding. It was proposed that preference for Travel Awards should be given (i) to current Division members; (ii) to support the attendance of a member of the laboratory of Symposium speakers, for example the student responsible for the data/work presented in the Symposium. It was proposed that since the Travel Awards already including ACS membership and the meeting registration then they could also include a year's membership of the Division (\$10 fee).

(b) Joint Symposium with the Spring 2006 ASBMB Meeting in San Francisco. This year's joint Symposium was unusual because several years ago it was decided that the Division should meet with the ACS at the Fall Meeting rather than with the ASBMB. This is in part because it is a Division of the ACS and in part because the ASBMB had eliminated its financial contribution derived from the meeting registration fee. It was proposed that it would be a very natural affiliation for the Division to meet at the Spring ASBMB meeting but it was pointed out that this would likely involve additional expenditure for the Division. The Division is paying for the entire

program of at the Spring 2006 ASBMB meeting with no financial return from the ASBMB. There is good attendance at the Division's programs at the Fall ACS Meetings, especially at the Awards Symposia. The question of whether the Division should have 1 or 2 meetings per year was debated. Eugene Mueller and Richard Armstrong agreed to investigate the financial burden of meeting at the Spring ASBMB meeting. However, it was felt that it was an undue burden on the program organizers to add an additional meeting. It was proposed that any plans should provide for two separate program officers for the Spring and Fall meetings. It was also pointed out that the ASBMB meeting is not very chemical in nature. It was proposed that the success of the Spring 2006 ASBMB joint meeting be evaluated with a view to a possible repeat joint meeting next Spring. The committee expressed its thanks to Vernon Anderson for the arrangements for the Irwin Rose Symposium held at the Spring 2006 ASBMB meeting.

(c) Travel Awards. It was decided that Travel Awards should be kept at the current level of \$700 with the understanding that these funds be used wisely by the recipient and that they represent a supplement to the actual expenses with the excess being paid by the recipient's advisor. In the future the award could also include membership of the Division (see above).

(6) Funding Requests for Other Meetings Presented by Richard Armstrong.

The budget/cap for funding of conferences/symposia is \$15,00/year (the fiscal year beings in January). The following funding requests were approved:

(i) \$1500 for the Bioorganic Gordon Research Conference, July 2006, Oxford, UK (Peter Tonge). It was noted that this was a decrease from last year's support of \$2000 and Peter Tonge requested that the committee keep the support at the previous level and pointed out that the conference is being held in a relatively expensive location. This request will be reviewed in the early summer and it was agreed that the committee will vote in June via email to Richard Armstrong on whether to provide an additional \$500 of funding for this meeting. Some committee members expressed the feeling that in the future this conference should be supported in part by the Division of Organic Chemistry.

(ii) \$1500 for the Enzymes Gordon Research Conference, July 2006, Biddeford ME (Sue Miller and John Richard).

(iii) \$1000 for a conference on "Frontiers in Metallobiochemistry", June 2006, State College PA (Squire Booker).

(iv) \$1000 for the 26th Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference, Fall 2006, Evanston IL (Bruce Palfrey).

(v) \$750 for a symposium on "Bioorganic Chemistry and Biosensors" at the 61st ACS Regional Meeting, June 2006, Reno NV (Peter Beal).

(vi) \$500 for a symposium on "Protein and Peptide Modification in Biomarker Development" at the ACS Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, June 2006, Hershey PA (Peter Scholl).

(vii) \$500 for a symposium on "Rational Protein Design" at the ACS Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting, June 2006, Hershey PA (George Makhatadze).

(viii) \$1000 for a symposium on "Chemistry of Nucleic Acids" at the ACS Southeast Regional Meeting, November 2006, Atlanta GA (Nick Hud).

It was proposed that clear deadlines for the application of funding requests be given on the Division website and that applications be submitted via email, preferably with a standard subject line, with the necessary supporting documentation and information supplied as attachments in PDF format.

(7) US National Committee IUBMB Request for Funding Presented by Richard Armstrong. The situation was explained in detail. The National Committee is unable to pay its dues in full this year and has requested support from the Division in the amount of \$5000, in lieu of sending representatives to a USNC meeting. Richard Armstrong stated he feels strongly that the Division be affiliated with the USNC and that International activities are very important, but that the amount requested is rather high. It was pointed out by committee members that the USNC is active in establishing collaborations such as those involving the use of remote instrumentation and that it provides input on the program/plans for the IUBMB meetings, along with support for USNC committee members to attend the meeting (though not necessarily speakers). The one-time emergency nature of the request was emphasized and it was agreed that Richard Armstrong is authorized to fund the request at up to \$2500, pending information that he will obtain about what the ASBMB intends to do with regard to the situation. It was agreed that the matter be reviewed again in discussions via email and a final decision made via an email vote.

(8) Nominations Presented by Peter Tonge. Peter Tonge requested that the committee members send him suggestions for nominees for the open positions via email within the next couple of weeks. It was suggested that a list of the previous chairs of the Division be obtained/started.

(9) Awards Presented by Peter Tonge. The committee requested input from Peter Tonge on award nominations for next year and it was agreed that Peter will talk to John Richard about this issue. The issue of the age limits on the awards that are imposed by the companies funding the awards was discussed at length. It was felt by everyone that these limits are unfair, in particular with regard to women and scientists that embark on their academic careers via non-traditional routes. It was suggested that an award be created for scientists in mid-career and/or that the limits on the current awards be changed to reflect the time since the candidate's receipt of a Ph.D. degree or since becoming an independent investigator. Lila indicated she would be willing to initiate discussions with the various companies towards making changes in the age limit restrictions for the awards.

(10) Newsletter, Mailings and New Website: General Discussion. The need to increase the visibility/advertising of the Division, to increase attendance at the Fall ACS meetings and the absence of a Division presence at the Spring ACS meetings was discussed. Action plans for the new website are:

- (i) Have the ACS email Division members to give them details of the new website.
- (ii) Check that the ACS webpage has the correct link to the new Division website.
- (iii) Have the ACS add a "NEW" or similar attention-getting logo next to the website link to emphasize that this is not the old product.
- (iv) Eliminate the hardcopy newsletter and provide an electronic version, along with a means for electronic voting, on the website.

(11) New Business: General Discussion. Vernon Anderson proposed that the name of the Division be changed to "Division of Biological Chemistry and Chemical Biology" in order to better reflect current trends in the field. He also indicated that he would like to generate a letter in support of open access to journals to be sent to the ACS. It was agreed that the Division should keep pursuing this issue and that the letter would be reviewed and supported by the Division.