



## American Chemical Society Division of Biological Chemistry

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### Minutes of the Fall 2006 Business Meeting of the Division of Biological Chemistry - Sunday, September 10, 2006, 5:30 pm Kingfish Resaurant, San Francisco CA

**Attended by:** Karen Allen, Richard Armstrong, Tadhg Begley, Christina Chow, John Gerlt, Lila Gierasch, Jason Kahn, John Kozarich, Dewey McLafferty, Eugene Mueller, James Stivers, John Richard, Peter Tonge

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**(1) Reading of Minutes by John Richard.** The minutes of the Spring 2006 Business Meeting of the Committee at the San Francisco ASBMB meeting were approved.

**(2) Report of the Executive Committee Presented by Richard Armstrong.** The Chair of the Division reported that the Division is in good shape. The high quality of the Division's program at the fall 2006 ACS meeting was noted.

**(3) Report of the Treasurer Presented by Eugene Mueller.** The budget for the current year was presented. The Division is in good financial health. However, expenditures for last year exceeded revenues. It is expected that this will be corrected, in part, by an increase in revenue due to increasing returns on the Division's invested income. The officers expenses to attend the ACS meeting will almost certainly exceed the amount budgeted for 2006.

**(4) Report of the Secretary Presented by John Richard.** Two changes in the operations of the Division's Committees were reviewed. (1) Applications for small grants to support conferences and symposia at ACS meetings will now be reviewed by Jim Stivers, and in future years by the member of the Program Committee in their first year of service. Jim Stivers has been asked to put into writing this review process to be used in future years, and to develop an application form that may be downloaded from the Division's web site. (2) The nominations committee will assist the secretary in identifying candidates for the Division's awards. Officers of the Division were encouraged to suggest deserving nominees to Peter Tonge.

**(5) ACS Meetings Issues Presented by Karen Allen, Tadhg Begley and Jim Stivers.**

**(a) Fall 2006 ACS Meeting in San Francisco.** A list of the 21 recipients of the Division's Travel awards was presented. This number was increased from 20 because 1 award was split between two recipients who live in the Bay area. The Diversity of these travel awards, which were split equally between male and female recipients, was noted. Karen Allen reported that ACS Publications contributed \$3000 to support the Division's program, along with three subscriptions to *ACS Chemical Biology* and *Biochemistry*. These subscriptions will be presented to the winners of the Division's Travel awards, which will be chosen in a lottery.

The effort by the ACS to broaden the scope of symposia at National meetings was noted and discussed. The ACS strongly encourages Symposia that span the interests of several

divisions. The interests of our Division mesh well with the theme of *Genomics in Biotechnology* that will be featured at the Fall 2007 meeting in Boston Massachusetts.

Tadhg Begley explained that the ACS Division of Organic Chemistry organized a symposium at the current meeting which featured the work of *Young Investigators* in the early stages of their academic career, and suggested that this is something for our Division should consider. Jim Stivers commented on the absence of short contributed talks on the Division's program. It was suggested that in future years the Division's program should be divided equally between short contributed talks and longer invited talks. This led to extensive discussion of whether the Division should expand the number of programs organized for ACS National meetings from one (Fall meeting) to two (Spring meeting). The tone of the discussions was generally supportive of this change. In particular, this expansion will serve the interests of members of the ACS with interests in Chemical Biology/Biological Chemistry, who do not currently identify with the Division because of our relatively low profile within the ACS. The decreased interest of the Division's members in attending the Spring ASBMB meeting was noted. There was a concern expressed about whether the program committee was equipped to handle the additional workload. The program committee agreed to meet in the near future to discuss the feasibility of this proposal and report its recommendations at the Spring Business meeting scheduled to be held during the Chicago ACS meeting.

(b) Fall 2007 ACS Meeting in Boston. The program chair for this meeting, Tadhg Begley, noted that he is considering a special symposium to honor the contributions of Perry Frey. The program chair will consider the suggestion that short talks be incorporated into the Division's program.

**(6) Funding Requests for Other Meetings Presented by Jim Stivers.** The following funding requests were approved:

(1) Symposium on "Frontiers in Chemical Biology" at the ACS Northeast Regional Meeting at Binghamton, New York (October 5 - 7, 2006). Organized by Tadhg Begley. \$500 approved.

(2) Symposium to honor the recipient of the Nakanishi Prize at the Spring ACS national meeting at Chicago, Illinois (March 24 - 29, 2007). Organized by Ben Liu. \$500 approved.

(3) 2007 Enzyme Mechanisms Conference at St. Petersburg, Florida (January 3 - 6, 2007), Organized by Chris Whitman. \$2000 approved.

(4) 2006 Rustbelt RNA Meeting at Deer Creek State Park and Resort, Mount Sterling, Ohio (October 20-21, 2006). Organized by Mark Foster. \$1500 approved.

(5) Division's program at the 2007 Middle Atlantic Regional meeting of the ACS at Collegeville, Pennsylvania, March 16 - 18. Organized by Lynn Abel. \$1500 approved.

The budget cap for funding of conferences and symposia is \$15,000/year (the fiscal year begins in January). The total amount approved for 2006 is \$14,750

**(7) US National Committee IUBMB, New Member.** Susan Miller was previously selected for this committee, and will begin to serve next year.

**(8) Representative for BIOT Secretariat of the ACS.** John Kozarich is relinquishing his position on this secretariat after 6 years of effective service. The lack of representatives from industry among the Division's officers was noted, and it was suggested that this appointment should go to an industrial biochemist. Dr. Kenny Wong from Merck was nominated for this position, and unanimously approved. There is no formal term limit for this appointment. It was suggested that Dr. Wong should serve for a term of three years, and that this service might continue for a second term, upon mutual agreement between the Division and Dr. Wong.

**(9) Nominations and Awards presented by Peter Tonge.** The committee has been charged with identifying candidates for the following offices which will come open in 2008.

At-Large Members of the Executive Council - Two for 3 year terms

Councilors - Two for 3 year terms

Program Committee Member - Four year term

Nominating Committee Member - Three year term

**(10) Newsletter, Mailings and New Website presented by John Richard.**

John Richard noted that he has been spending considerable time maintaining the Division's website and that he is not fully qualified to handle this job. The Division approved \$500/year so that Uli Iserloh from Iserloh Design can assist Richard with website upkeep. The secretary also noted that he has been having difficulties in arranging for messages to be sent to our members as EMAIL blasts. He plans to seek assistance with this from Uli Iserloh of Iserloh Design.

The secretary reported that the Division must continue the hardcopy mailing of the Division's Summer Newsletter and election ballot, until such time as the ACS can arrange for electronic balloting. He will eliminate the hardcopy mailing of the Division's Winter Newsletter, provided that he is able to send our members an EMAIL message that this Newsletter is available on the Division's website.

**(11) New Business: None**