



American Chemical Society

Division of Biological Chemistry

Minutes of the Fall 2007 Business Meeting of the Division of Biological Chemistry - Monday, August 20, 2007, 12:00 pm 109A Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Boston, MA

Attended by: Tadhg Begley, John Blanchard, Squire Booker, Christine Chow, Phil Cole, Sheila David, Mark Distefano, Carol Fierke, Gary Glick, Anna Mapp, Eugene Mueller, John Richard, Jim Stivers, and Martin Tanner.

(1) Reading of minutes. The minutes of the March 26, 2007 Chicago Business meeting were read and approved.

(2) Report of the Secretary Presented by John Richard. The secretary asked for suggestions of how to improve the website. Phil Cole suggested that an effort be made to encourage Chemistry and Biochemistry departments to post information about their graduate programs.

The secretary announced that the election ballots will now be mailed separately from the Division's Newsletter, which is distributed electronically. There was a discussion about instituting a web-based election in order to save the cost of the mail ballot. Several difficulties in instituting a web-based election were mentioned. Sheila David told the group that these problems had been solved by the ACS Inorganic Division. The first step the division needs to take to change our election procedures is to add an amendment to our bylaws permitting web-based elections. A motion to add this amendment passed unanimously.

The secretary announced that Chris Whitman planned to publish a special issue of Bioorganic Chemistry dedicated to Bill Jencks. This issue is scheduled to appear about the time of the 2009 Winter Enzyme Mechanisms conference. Carol Fierke and John Richard promised to work to raise funds to support a travel award in Bill Jencks name to attend the Winter Enzyme Mechanisms conference.

(3) Report of the Treasurer Presented by Eugene Mueller. The treasurer announced that the division has kept to its planned budget during the first part of the year, and that the problems that led to a deficit in 2006 have been corrected.

The division has invested about 1/3 of its available reserve funds (\$100,000) in a fund administered by the American Chemical Society. The decision to invest an additional \$100,000 in to a high yielding private fund was postponed because of the current market volatility

The decision made at the Spring meeting to increase the dues from \$10.00 to \$12.50 was revisited. A second motion to increase dues was passed unanimously. This will provide an important new source of revenue to support the Division's Spring program at the ACS national meeting, which will be held for the first time at the 2008 meeting in New Orleans.

(4) ACS Meetings Issues Presented by Tadhg Begley and Jim Stivers. The Divisions officers complimented Tadhg Begley on the excellent job done in organizing the Fall program. There was a brief discussion of the Spring program planned for the New Orleans meeting. The program will consist of 4-half-day oral sessions and poster sessions. There will be one plenary speaker at each oral session. The remaining speakers will give 20 minute talks, and will be chosen from the poster abstracts that best fit the themes of the individual sessions.

Tadgh Begley told the committee that he hoped to commit \$3000 of the Divisions funds towards the reimbursement the expenses for the plenary lecturers at the oral sessions. There was some discussion, before a consensus was reached that this was an appropriate expense. Plans to advertise the Division's decision to upgrade its programming were discussed. A suggestion the the Division begin to sponsor Young Investigator symposia was received with some enthusiasm.

Jim Stivers briefly discussed the programming for the ASC Summer 2008 meeting in Philadelphia. He agreed to contact Suzanne Miller to ask that she serve as the contact person for those applying to the Division for funds to support Conferences and Symposia.

(5) Funding and Co-sponsorship Requests for Other Meetings (Jim Stivers)

The following requests for meeting support were considered and acted upon.

Bioorganic Chemistry Symposium
Northwest & Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting
Park City, Utah
June 17-18, 2008
Organizers: Heidi Vollmer-Snarr and Young Wan Ham
Amount awarded: \$500

Trends in Enzymology 2008
Palais du Grand Large, St. Malo, France
July 2-5, 2008
Organizer: Susan Miller
Amount awarded: \$1,500

Conference: Gordon Research Conference on Isotopes in the Biological and
Chemical Sciences
Crowne Plaza, Ventura, CA
February 17-22, 2008
Organizer: Daniel Quinn
Amount Awarded: \$500

Second International Interdisciplinary Conference on Vitamins,
Coenzymes, and Biofactors
University of Georgia, Athens GA
October 26-31, 2008
Robert Philips, Chair of Organizing Committee
Awarded: \$1,000

27th Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference
University of Illinois at Chicago
September 29th.
Organizer: Tod Holler
Awarded: \$1,000

59th Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society
Greenville, South Carolina
October 24-27, 2007
Organizer: Bill Pennington
Awarded: \$500

(8) Nominations and Awards presented by John Richard. The members of the executive committee were encouraged to identify nominees for the Divisions awards, and to assist the nominations committee in identifying candidates for the Division's offices.

(9) Other Business (Carol Fierke). The division's response to an anticipated request for a contribution to the IUBMB was discussed. The consensus was that while the benefits derived from our association with the IUBMB do not justify a continuing contribution of \$2,000 - 3,000.