



# American Chemical Society

## Division of Biological Chemistry

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### Minutes of the Fall 2008 Business Meeting of the Division of Biological Chemistry - Monday, August 18, 2008, 12:00 – 2:00 pm Room 302, Marriott, Philadelphia, PA

**Attended by:** John Blanchard, Martin Bollinger, Evelyn Jabri (ACS Publications), Carol Fierke, Lila M. Gierasch, Neil Kelleher, Laura Kiessling (ACS, Chemical Biology), Eric Martens (ACS, Chemical Biology) Eugene Mueller, John Richard, Jim Stivers, Wilfred van der Donk and Suzanne Walker.

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#### (1) Reading of Minutes by John Richard

The minutes of the April 9, 2008, Business Meeting held in New Orleans LA were read and approved.

#### (2) Report of the Secretary Presented by John Richard.

The secretary reported that the Division will hold web-based elections for the first time in the fall of 2008. These elections will use software that was generously provided to our Division by the Division of Inorganic Chemistry. Uli Iserloh of Bright design will manage this election. Iserloh prepared a brief overview of the election web site, which was distributed to the members of the executive committee.

The secretary reported that *ca* \$22,000 has been raised to endow a travel award to attend the Winter Enzyme Mechanisms Conference in January of 2009. Karen Allen, the Chair of the conference organizing committee, will handle the publicity for this award, collect award nominations, and organize a committee to chose the recipient.

Eugene Mueller presented a proposal that the Division of Biological Chemistry build and administer an endowment for the Jeremy Knowles Travel Award. This award will support participation of graduate students at the *Enzymes, Coenzymes, and Metabolic Pathways* and the *Bioorganic Chemistry* Gordon Research Conferences, both of which cover areas spanned by Knowles' research. A motion to approve this proposal was passed unanimously.

Eric Martens and Laura Kiessling presented a proposal for a new ACS Chemical Biology Lectureship to be cosponsored by ACS Journals and the Division of Biological Chemistry, with the inaugural lecture to be held during the Spring 2010 ACS meeting. This lectureship will be modeled after the *Biochemistry* Gordon Hammes Lectureship, but will also include an award symposium. There was extensive discussion about the organization of this symposium and the selection of speakers. It was decided that the cost of the symposium would be split between *ACS Chemical Biology* and the DBC. The Journal would cover the travel costs and registration fees of the award recipient and one additional speaker, and the Division would reimburse the costs two additional speakers at the same level as for speakers at other symposia. There was general agreement that the Chair of the DBC Program Committee should make the final decision on the speakers, after consulting with the award recipient.

A motion to institute the ACS Chemical Biology Lectureship and accompanying symposium was passed unanimously.

The secretary reported that Niel Kelleher has agreed to take over responsibility for maintenance of the Division's web site.

### **(3) Report of the Treasurer Presented by Eugene Mueller.**

The treasurer reported that the Division is in good financial shape. The division's assets are currently divided between investment in CDs (2/3) and in an ACS administered investment fund. The treasurer reported that a plan to move an addition 1/3 of the Division's assets from CDs to a higher yielding investment fund has been put on hold until the collapsing stock market bottoms out. The revenues for 2009 are expected to increase, due to the Division's recent increase in dues from \$10.00 to 12.50. John Richard pointed out that the move to an electronic mailing of our Newsletter and a web-based election has saved the Division in excess of \$10,000. He suggested that the Division needs to consider how to reallocate these funds.

### **(4) Financial Issues Presented by Eugene Mueller**

The treasurer warned of impending changes in the formula ACS uses to allocate funds to the division. This is a subject of current discussion at ACS council meetings.

### **(5) ACS meeting issues presented by Jim Stivers and Suzanne Walker.**

Jim Stivers presented an outline for the program at the 237th spring ACS National Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. He reported that he intends to continue the Young Investigator Symposium Instituted by Tadgh Begley at the previous spring meeting. The executive committee congratulated Jim Stivers on the excellent program assembled for the fall ACS meeting

Suzanne Walker reported that the planning for the program at the 238th Fall ACS National Meeting in Washington, DC is proceeding on schedule.

The future of the Division's spring program was discussed. The spring program was approved for an initial 3-year period, which will end in 2010. There was general agreement that the program at the previous spring meeting was a great success. Suzanne Walker has agreed to organize a program for 239th Spring ACS National Meeting in San Francisco, CA. Martin Bollinger indicated a willingness to organize the Spring meeting in 2011, pending a decision by the division on whether to extend the trial 3-year period.

The advantages of co-sponsoring symposia with other Divisions were discussed. The ACS divisional allocation is tied to the total number of symposia sponsored at National Meetings. The Division's spring program should therefore have a positive effect on this allocation.

John Richard described procedures for subsidizing ACS divisions that participate in the Pacifichem 2010 Technical Program. The Division of Biological Chemistry has been eligible for reimbursement of funds to support symposia at previous Pacifichem meeting, but has not sought this support. This reimbursement is not guaranteed, but if history is a guide previous Pacifichem meetings have reimbursed 100% of division sponsorships. The secretary suggested that the Division consider increasing their level of support of symposia at Pacifichem 2010 from

the \$2000/symposia provided for Pacifichem 2005, in anticipation of being reimbursed for this support.

**(6) Funding and Co-sponsorship Requests for Other Meetings Presented by Suzanne Walker.**

Decisions were made to provide support for the following meetings.

28th Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference. September 2009, Chicago IL, Organizer, Amnon Kohen. \$500

Symposium on Functional Motions in Enzyme Catalysis, 2009 Spring ACS Meeting National Meeting, March 2009, Salt Lake City, UT, Organizer, Amnon Kohen. \$1000.

Chemical Biology and Medicinal Chemistry Symposium, 2009 Central Regional Meeting of the ACS, May 2009, Cleveland, OH, Organizer, Mary Barkley. \$500

Nucleic Acids Symposium, 2008 Southeast Regional Meeting of the ACS, November 2008, Nashville, TN, Organizer, Michael Stone. \$400

21<sup>st</sup> Winter Enzyme Mechanisms Conference, January, 2009 Tucson, AZ, Chair of Organizing Committee, Karen Allen. \$2000

Gordon Research Conference on Bioorganic Chemistry, June 2009, Andover, NH, Coorganizers: Nicole Sampson and Stewart Fisher. \$1500

**(7) Nominations and Awards, Presented by John Richard**

The secretary encouraged members of the executive committee to identify worthy candidates for the Pfizer and Lilly Awards. Richard reported that he had approached RSC Journals to solicit support for a Journal Lectureship, which would be organized along lines similar to the Gordon Hammes Lectureship.

**(8) Other Business, Presented by Carol Fierke.**

Carol Fierke presented a draft of the ACS Committee of Professional Training recommendations for a standard biochemistry curriculum. These recommendations were discussed briefly.

Wilfred van der Donk presented statistical data on the Division's 6350 members as of August 2007. It was suggested that addition of a list of members benefits to the Division's website might entice others to join the DBC.