



American Chemical Society

Division of Biological Chemistry

Minutes of the Fall 2012 Business Meeting of the Division of Biological Chemistry - Tuesday, August 21, 2012, 11:45 – 1:15 pm Palm Restaurant, Bellevue Hotel, Philadelphia

Attended by: Kate Carroll, Michelle Chang, Virginia Cornish, Hung-wen Liu, Nikki Pohl, Frank Raushel, Nigel Richards, Nicole Sampson, James Stivers, JoAnne Stubbe, Tom Wandless, Chris Whitman and Jin Zhang.

(1) Chair's Report presented by JoAnne Stubbe

The Chair opened the meeting by thanking all of the Division of Biological Chemistry (DBC) officers for their service during her two years of leadership. She detailed her efforts to modify the age requirements of the Pfizer and Lilly awards, and emphasized the importance of increasing the number of nominations for the DBC-sponsored awards more generally. She also presented some ideas for changes to the award symposia and banquet. Efforts are underway to identify and work with people who hold executive positions at Lilly, Pfizer and Repligen to ensure that these companies continue to recognize the prestige associated with these awards so that funding is not disrupted. In this regard, she noted that there had been some uncertainty about the commitment of Lilly to supporting their named award. It was agreed that the Secretary would work to contact senior Lilly management to ensure continued support for the Lilly award. The Chair also made two suggestions for changes in the award symposia. First, that award winners should not preside over their own award symposium. Second, the DBC Chair or Program Chair present a brief description of the award and its history at the beginning of each symposium, and also introduce the person presiding over the award symposium. Finally, she congratulated Tom Wandless for his efforts in putting together an outstanding technical program at the Philadelphia ACS National Meeting. Once again, the presentations at the student symposium were excellent and many posters of very high quality had been exhibited.

(2) Report of the Secretary presented by Nigel Richards.

The minutes of the Spring 2012 business meeting were accepted. The secretary updated those present on revisions to the BIOL by-laws, and discussion followed concerning additional changes that should be introduced. In particular, there was agreement that the duties of the nominating committee need to be defined more clearly. It was suggested that this committee should prepare a slate of candidates for review one week prior to the Fall business meeting. Nominating committee members would have called all nominees and explained the duties of the positions for which they had been nominated prior to obtaining their agreement to be included on the election list. This list could then be reviewed by BIOL officers attending the Fall meeting, who would be able to suggest additional nominees for the ballot. The nominating committee would then contact these persons, if any, to get their agreement to stand for election. The secretary was instructed to ensure that the function of the nominating committee was more clearly documented in the by-laws. He also informed those present that the online election in November 2012 would again be implemented by vote-now.com. There was general discussion about the election and the absence of a full slate of nominees for the 2012 election. A series of names were proposed for a number of the positions up for election (Secretary, Nominating and

Program Committee members) and the Secretary agreed to work with the Chair to contact these nominees and ensure that a full slate of candidates would be available prior to the election. A request for suggestions of nominees from the general membership will be made available on the DBC web site.

(3) Report of the Treasurer presented by Chris Whitman.

Detailed information concerning the current fiscal position of the DBC was provided by the treasurer. Thanks to his efforts, and those of his predecessor (Scott Silverman), the Division continues to enjoy access to significant financial resources. He also reported that there had been an error in the allotment from the ACS to the DBC for the San Diego meeting, which had been corrected as a result of questions raised by Nicole Sampson.

The Treasurer also pointed out that the fiscal condition of the funds supporting the Founders' and Knowles awards had deteriorated. It was resolved that the DBC allocate a further \$25000 to these funds to ensure their continuation in the short-term. It is likely that additional fund-raising efforts will be needed to ensure the long-term stability of these student travel awards. There was also some discussion about the procedures employed to select the winners of these awards.

(4) ACS meeting issues presented by Tom Wandless.

As chair of the Program Committee, Tom Wandless discussed the program for the 2012 Fall ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. It was generally agreed the program had been very strong, being largely composed of award symposia (Lilly, Pfizer and Repligen). In addition, he reported on the Goodman award symposium and a special series of lectures to mark the 50th anniversary of NIGMS; events that were both co-sponsored by the DBC. He pointed out that attendance at the latter symposium had been lower than anticipated, possibly as a result of the location in which it was held and the time at which it was scheduled. Once again, however, the poster sessions had been well-attended with good feedback concerning the refreshments provided. After discussion it was resolved that the DBC continue to allocate up to \$4000 to cover the costs of providing light refreshments at this event.

The Program Committee chair then updated the meeting about planning for the Spring ACS meeting, which will be held in New Orleans in April 2013. The BIOL program will feature the Biochemistry Hammes Lecture, which will be presented by Angela Gronenborn, and a symposium honoring the contributions of Wilfred van der Donk, who will give the ACS Chemical Biology Lecture. The DBC will also co-sponsor several symposia with other Divisions.

(5) Funding requests presented by Tom Wandless.

Funding requests received prior to August 1, 2012 were reviewed by the officers and committee members present at the meeting. Support was provided for the following meetings:

2013 Bioorganic Chemistry GRC, June 9-14 2012, Andover, NH, Organizers, Grant Walkup & Jumi Shin. \$3000 as requested and a \$1000 supplementary award

2013 Enzyme Mechanisms Conference, January 3-6, 2013, Coronado, CA, Organizer, Thomas Meek. \$3000

2013 Central Regional Meeting of the ACS (CERM), May 15-27, 2013, Mt. Pleasant, MI, Organizers, Anton Jensen, Mary Tecklenburg & Philip Squattrito. \$500

(6) Other Business, Presented by JoAnne Stubbe.

There was some discussion about several aspects of the DBC awards banquet, which is held at the Fall ACS National Meeting, including whether brochures should be printed for the event. It was generally agreed that having the award presentations at the banquet should be continued.

The role of the DBC in facilitating the ability of graduate students and post-doctoral research associates at Gordon Research Conferences was also discussed. It was resolved that the DBC provide 10 travel grants of \$500 for graduate students to attend the Enzymes (5) and Bioorganic (5) Gordon Research Conferences. In addition, it was resolved that the DBC will continue to provide travel awards for students and post-docs attending the Spring (20) and Fall (20) ACS National Meetings.