



American Chemical Society

Division of Biological Chemistry

Minutes of the Spring 2011 Business Meeting of the Division of Biological Chemistry - Tuesday, March 29, 2011, 11:45 – 2:00 pm Marriott Café Del Sol, Anaheim, CA

Attended by: Martin Bollinger, Michael Burkart, Cindy Burrows, Paul Carey, Kate Carroll, Stewart Fisher, Hung-wen Liu, Dewey McCafferty, Nigel Richards, Scott Silverman, James Stivers and JoAnne Stubbe.

(1) Chair's Report presented by JoAnne Stubbe

The Chair welcomed the officers and committee members who were attending the business meeting. She then briefly outlined her goals for the Division of Biological Chemistry (DBC) during her time in office and listed some concerns. In particular, strategies are needed to increase the number of nominations for existing awards that are administered by the division, particularly for the newer ACS Chemical Biology and Hammes lectureships. To this end, she presented a proposal that the award deadlines be extended to June 15 rather than June 1, as indicated in the guidelines posted on the DBC web site. Regarding these awards, she also outlined a plan for appointing members of the award selection committees that was supported by those officers present at the meeting. Thus, these committees will include one member nominated by the award co-sponsor (in these cases, the journals *ACS Chemical Biology* and *Biochemistry*), one member nominated by the DBC Chair and a third member mutually agreeable to both parties. This plan will also be implemented for any future awards, including the *Molecular Biosystems* award (Royal Society of Chemistry), which are co-sponsored by the DBC. The Chair also outlined her goals for increased DBC support of activities involving graduate students and post-doctoral researchers, and expressed her appreciation for the efforts of Scott Silverman in re-organizing division finances in recent years, which have resulted in a substantial increase in investment income. This view was supported by all those present, and some discussion ensued as to how to ensure a smooth transition when the new treasurer begins their three-year term in January 2012. Finally, she congratulated Martin Bollinger and Dewey McCafferty for their efforts in putting together an outstanding technical program at the Anaheim ACS National Meeting.

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

The minutes of the Fall 2010 business meeting were approved, and will be posted on the web site. The secretary noted that the redesigned DBC web site has been made generally available to all DBC members and is being regularly updated to reflect upcoming meetings of interest. In addition, a new section has been created containing information about DBC award winners. Anyone with ideas for content or who finds incorrect information on the site should contact the Secretary.

(3) Report of the Treasurer presented by Scott Silverman.

Detailed information concerning the current fiscal position of the DBC was provided by the treasurer. Almost all of the reorganization of Division monies to mutual funds is complete, and a number of existing CDs will mature in the near future. When this happens, the funds released will be invested in mutual funds following an investment plan developed by the treasurer. After hearing this plan, the suggested distribution of assets was discussed and questions about the size of the current cash position of the DBC were raised. In particular, concerns were aired about the extent to which funds can be accumulated by the division before income becomes taxable. It was also suggested that some of these accumulated funds might be used to support activities to increase the membership base of the DBC. It was, however, resolved to approve the Treasurer's proposal to place funds from maturing CDs into long-term Vanguard index funds, consistent with the financial adjustments made over the past few years.

With the increased amount of programming, there has been increased allocation of funds to the DBC from the American Chemical Society. Some questions were raised concerning the formulas that are employed in the distribution of such monies and Paul Carey was tasked to obtain information on this point for the Chair and other DBC officers.

The possibility that additional revenue for DBC-supported activities might be raised through increasing membership dues (currently \$12.50 and \$5.00 per year for regular Division members and students, respectively) was also discussed. It was resolved not to pursue this course of action in the near term out of concern that the increased dues would discourage new membership.

Given the strong financial position of the Division and the increasing difficulties in obtaining funds for scientific meetings from industry and Federal sources, discussion ensued as to whether the current level of DBC support for these endeavors should be increased. It was resolved to increase the annual amount budgeted for this purpose to a total of \$20,000 per year from \$15,000. In light of the increased amount of technical programming undertaken by the DBC at the Spring ACS National Meeting, the treasurer also outlined a plan to "rebalance" travel reimbursements for speakers and executive committee members who attend the DBC business meeting. This proposal was approved and the new limits will be introduced at the Fall ACS National Meeting that will be held in Denver, CO.

(4) ACS meeting issues presented by Martin Bollinger.

As the outgoing chair of the Program Committee, Martin Bollinger discussed the program for the 2011 Spring ACS National Meeting in Anaheim, CA and some of the constraints imposed on symposium and poster session organization by the ACS. Several new programming ideas will be introduced in an expanded program at the Fall 2011 ACS National Meeting to be held in Denver, CO, which will be principally organized by Dewey McCafferty, the incoming Program Committee chair. There was general agreement that recent innovations to the technical program had been a great success (the short talks given by speakers selected from abstract submissions were well attended at the Anaheim meeting), and it was proposed that the number of days of DBC programming at the 2012 Spring ACS National Meeting should be increased from 3 to 4 as an experiment. The possibility of having parallel sessions of a specialized nature (e.g. covering topics in bioinorganic chemistry or biophysics) was also discussed but it was felt by several participants that only having a single session is a strength of DBC programming, which encourages good attendance at the lecture presentations. There was some support for

increasing the number of DBC-related symposia through co-sponsorship with other ACS divisions. It was noted that the DBC will co-sponsor a symposium on "Chemistry and Biology of Redox-Mediated Toxicity" at the Fall ACS National Meeting with the TOXI division.

Although some DBC award winners do not elect to present their award lecture as part of a symposium with several other speakers, it was decided to formulate a policy concerning the selection of symposium speakers for those who do. This was felt to be important given the increasing number of external organizations, such as the Royal Society of Chemistry, who wish to co-sponsor award lectures with the division. ACS National award winners are also electing to give their award presentations within the DBC technical program. After some discussion, it was resolved that award symposium participants will be chosen from submitted abstracts by the DBC Program Chair after consultation with the award recipient, with this policy taking effect at the 2012 Spring ACS National Meeting in San Diego, CA.

Poster presentations (approximately 250 in Anaheim, CA) now form a significant portion of the DBC programming at both ACS National Meetings, and participants continued to discuss their concerns about faculty attendance at these sessions. It was noted that the timing of these sessions in the evening is a major problem and it was therefore resolved to move the DBC poster session to the late-afternoon at the Fall ACS National Meeting. This should allow conferees to attend the afternoon symposia and then immediately move to the poster prior to dinner and/or evening events scheduled by other divisions and vendors. In addition, it was decided to provide funds for catering at the poster session to encourage attendance and to enhance faculty/student/post-doc interactions at the meeting. As part of efforts to increase student and post-doc participation in DBC activities at the National Meeting, participants approved a proposal to increase the number of travel awards to 20 per meeting (40 per annum).

Finally, it was resolved that the DBC Chair contact ACS to consider moving the Council meeting from its current time on the Wednesday of the meeting to earlier in the week.

(5) Funding requests presented by Martin Bollinger.

Funding requests received prior to March 1, 2011 were discussed by the officers and committee members present at the meeting. Suggestions for the amounts of recommended funding were presented. Support was provided for the following meetings:

2011 International Conference on Aminoacyl-tRNA Synthetases, September 2011, Snobird, UT, Organizer, Tamara Hendrickson. \$750

17th International Symposium on Flavins & Flavoproteins, July 2011, Berkeley, CA, Organizer, Susan Miller. \$750

2nd Southeast Enzymes Meeting, April 2011, Atlanta, GA, Organizer, Nigel Richards. \$750

Symposium on Biomolecular Structure & Function, October 2011, Joint 46th Midwest Regional Meeting/ 39th Great Lakes Regional Meeting (MWRM/GLRM), St. Louis, MO, Organizer, Cynthia Dupureur. \$500

Graduate Student-run Symposium on "Chemistry by Design: Building at the Molecular Level, 2011 Fall ACS National Meeting, August 2011, Denver, CO, Organizer, Beatriz Rios-McKee. \$500

ACS Graduate Student and Post Reception, 2011 Fall ACS National Meeting, August 2011, Denver, CO, Organizer, Joe Sostaric. \$500

ACS Graduate Student and Post Reception, 2012 Spring ACS National Meeting, March 2012, San Diego, CA, Organizer, Joe Sostaric. \$500

2011 Bioorganic Chemistry GRC, June 2011, Andover, NH, Organizers, Rami Hannoush & Tim Dore. \$3000 (these funds were paid in 2010)*

2011 Enzymes, Co-Enzymes & Metabolic Pathways GRC, July 2011, Waterville Valley, NH, Organizers, James Stivers & Ann-Frances Miller. \$3000 (these funds were paid in 2010)*

2011 High Throughput Chemistry and Chemical Biology GRS, June 2011, London, NH, Organizer, William Pomerantz. \$750

*Note: From 2012 onwards, payments to these, and other, Gordon Research Conferences will be provided in the same year as the actual meeting takes place

(6) Nominations and Awards, Presented by Nigel Richards

The secretary outlined some minor revisions to procedures for obtaining award nominations, including sending an e-mail out in early-May to all division members to remind them of nomination deadlines. In addition, the March 1 deadline for "pre-nominations" will be removed from the web site because it causes significant amounts of confusion for people seeking to assemble the nomination packets for their candidates. The final topic of the report concerned the status of the *Molecular Biosystems* award, which was awarded for the first time in 2010 (the inaugural lecture was presented as part of the Spring 2011 program in Anaheim, CA). There seems to be some confusion about how this award is to be funded in the future and the extent to which monies from the DBC will be provided to cover the costs of the award lecture. After some discussion, it was resolved that the secretary should contact the appropriate Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) representative to explain that the DBC is unwilling to fund this award and develop a plan for how to proceed in future years. Those present at the business meeting were unwilling to elect an award winner for 2011 in the absence of any agreement regarding the role of RSC in funding this award.

The treasurer also reported that the current level of interest on the endowments for the Knowles and Founders awards does not cover costs. Additional methods to increase funds for these important student awards therefore need to be devised and implemented. Discussion followed with the possibility of allocating some of the revenue raised from including advertising on the DBC web site (see below) towards increasing these endowments.

(7) Other Business, Presented by JoAnne Stubbe.

The role of the Executive committee (currently comprising 6 elected individuals who lack a well-defined portfolio) within the division leadership was discussed, and the view expressed that this committee be involved in developing strategic ideas for the future development of DBC activities. This group will also serve as a resource for the Chair in addressing specific questions that arise as a result of DBC interactions with the national

ACS and other entities, such as ASBMB. In addition, it was pointed out that the entire set of DBC officers (Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Councilors, Alternate Councilors, and all committee members) is regarded as an "Executive Committee" according to National ACS guidelines. It was therefore resolved to rename the present "Executive Committee" to the "Advisory committee" with immediate effect, and to reduce the number of members from 6 to 4.

Discussion then moved to a more general consideration of the current DBC by-laws, which do not seem to have been updated for at least a decade. It was therefore resolved that the DBC Chair should seek to obtain a copy of the current by-laws, so as to assess how much they differ from current procedures for running the division and electing DBC officers and committee members. It was anticipated that substantial revisions will be required in light of the considerable expansion of DBC activities in recent years.

As at previous meetings (e.g. see the Fall 2010 business meeting minutes), participants discussed the possibility of permitting advertising on the BIOL web site. The Chair was tasked to discuss the current ACS policy with respect to advertising, including any limits on content and/or payments. A significant number of other questions were also raised and discussed, which will likely require some input from the wider DBC membership in the future. In general, there was support for the idea of obtaining revenue through the web site, especially if these monies were to be used to increase the size of student/post-doc travel awards, to cover the costs of catering at the DBC poster sessions and to permit enhancements to speaker reimbursements. It was therefore resolved to gather more information pertaining to web-based advertising in order to provide a basis for developing this possible additional source of revenue.