



American Chemical Society

Division of Biological Chemistry

Minutes of the Spring 2012 Business Meeting of the Division of Biological Chemistry - Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 11:45 – 1:30 pm Vela Restaurant, Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel

Attended by: Martin Bollinger, Michael Burkart, Michelle Chang, Virginia Cornish, Neil Kelleher, Hung-wen Liu, Dewey McCafferty, Anne-Frances Miller, Nikki Pohl, Nigel Richards, Nicole Sampson, JoAnne Stubbe, Tom Wandless and Chris Whitman.

(1) Chair's Report presented by JoAnne Stubbe

The Chair welcomed all of the newly elected Division of Biological Chemistry (DBC) officers and committee members who were attending the business meeting. She announced that Wilfred van der Donk (Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) would represent the DBC as an ACS Topic Reviewer for Area #7 (Biological) in Pacifichem 2015. The Chair also remarked on ideas for increasing the number of nominations for the DBC awards, especially the Pfizer and Lilly awards that have age limits. She continues to work on the problem of changing these requirements to reflect modern hiring trends, which mean that many faculty members begin their first academic appointments after multiple post-doctoral appointments. She also reported that DBC-sponsored nomination packets for ACS Fellows had been assembled and would be submitted by the deadline. Finally, she congratulated Dewey McCafferty and Tom Wandless for their efforts in putting together an outstanding technical program at the San Diego ACS National Meeting. In particular, 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 Fall 2011 business meeting were approved. The secretary also noted that the DBC by-laws were undergoing a thorough revision to reflect changes in the election of officers and methods for contacting the membership. A large number of obsolete by-laws had also been identified. When the initial set of changes is completed by the Chair and Secretary working with members of the Advisory Committee, the revised by-laws will be circulated to the membership for comment and subsequent approval.

The secretary noted that the online elections held in November 2011 had been very successfully implemented by vote-now.com and that many positive comments had been received concerning the ease and convenience of using the voting interface. Only about 10% of the DBC membership had participated in the election, however, and it was agreed that more e-mail reminders should be sent to members during the period when the voting site was open. There was also some discussion of the process by which candidates for the election was performed by the nominating committee. It was decided that this committee be sent a description of each office that could be communicated to potential candidates when asking if they were interested in running for office. It was also felt that having a list of candidates before the Fall DBC business meeting would be desirable so that we additional names could be added to the list of potential candidate should greater diversity in the nominees be needed. The secretary was instructed to ensure that the function of the nominating committee was more

clearly documented in the by-laws. Finally, it was resolved that a request for suggestions of nominees from the general membership would be posted 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. The reorganization of Division monies to mutual funds is complete and the financial condition of the DBC remains very strong. He was granted permission to work with Scott Silverman (DBC Treasurer 2009-2011) to move the funds from three CDs that will mature in 2012 to appropriate Vanguard fund accounts.

It was decided to combine the sub-accounts for the Jencks and Founders awards so as to simplify financial accounting. The Treasurer reported that only limited funds remained in these accounts and recommended that a new round of fund raising be initiated. Nicole Sampson, who was involved in obtaining funds to support the Knowles travel awards, volunteered to lead these new fund raising efforts.

He next reported the DBC had received an allotment from the ACS for the San Diego meeting that was substantially lower than that received for the previous meeting in Denver. The basis for this reduction in funding was unclear although it was believed that it might be a consequence of the weather conditions that had prevented many people from attending the Denver meeting with the consequence that ACS had provided a considerable number of refunded registration fees. Nicole Sampson was asked to raise this issue at the ACS Council meeting.

Finally, the issue of DBC support for the Pan-American Association for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (PABMB) was discussed again. There had been further e-mail contacts and requests for a \$1000 contribution to the PABMB to support their efforts in 2012. After discussion, it was resolved that the DBC needed more information before making a pledge for the requested amount. In addition, it was decided request substantial revisions to the payment arrangements that had been proposed by the PABMB representative, which did not seem to be prudent.

(4) ACS meeting issues presented by Dewey McCafferty & Tom Wandless.

As chair of the Program Committee, Dewey McCafferty discussed the program for the 2012 Spring ACS National Meeting in San Diego, CA. It was generally agreed the program had been very strong. In addition, he had been able to negotiate significant reductions in the food costs associated with the (very well attended) poster sessions. Dewey McCafferty was thanked for his continued efforts to improve the poster experience for presenters and participants alike.

Tom Wandless then updated the meeting about planning for the Fall ACS meeting, which will be held in Philadelphia. The BIOL program will be largely composed of award symposia (Lilly, Pfizer and Repligen). In addition, the DBC will co-sponsor the Goodman award session and a special symposium to mark the 50th anniversary of NIGMS. The DBC awards banquet will also be scheduled at the meeting and will be organized by JoAnne Stubbe. As decided at the Denver business meeting (August 2011) she will make substantial efforts to broaden participation in the event, including sending invitations to selected students and postdoc presenters.

(5) Funding requests presented by Dewey McCafferty.

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

2012 Bioorganic Chemistry GRC, June 10-15 2012, Andover, NH, Organizers, Mary Kay Pflum & Russell Petter. \$1000 supplementary award

2012 Enzymes, Co-enzymes & Metabolic Pathways GRC, July 15-20 2012, Waterville Valley, NH, Organizers, Steven Rokita & Greg Reinhart. \$1000 supplementary award

2012 Thiol-Based Redox Regulation & Signalling GRC, July 28-August 3, 2012, Lewiston, ME, Organizer: Leslie Poole. \$1500

2013 Metals in Biology GRC, January 22-27, 2013, Ventura, CA, Organizer: Amy Rosenzweig. \$1500

2013 Metals in Biology Graduate Research Seminar (GRS), January 20-21, 2013, Ventura, CA, Organizer: Amy Rosenzweig. \$1500

Graduate Student Symposium Planning Committee (GSSPC), August 19-23, 2010, Philadelphia, PA, Organizers, Emilly Obuya. \$500.

ACS Graduate Student and Post Reception, 2012 Fall ACS National Meeting, August 19-23, 2012, Philadelphia, PA, Organizer, Joe Sostaric. \$500

3rd Southeast Enzymes Meeting, April 14, 2012, Atlanta, GA, Organizer, Robert Phillips. \$875

FASEB Summer Research Conference on Nucleic Acid Enzymes, June 10-15, 2012, Snowmass, CO, Organizer: Barbara Golden. \$750

2012 Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference. October 13, 2012, Chicago, IL, Organizer, Graham Moran. \$875

Trends in Enzymology Meeting. June 3-7, 2012, Gottingen, Germany, Organizers, Kai Tittmann & John Kozarich. \$1000

Progress in Disease Therapeutics Symposium, 2012 Northwest Regional Meeting of the ACS (NORM). June 24-27, 2012, Boise, ID, Organizer, Ken Cornell. \$750

Chemical Biology Symposium, 2012 Southeast Regional Meeting of the ACS (SERMACS). November 14-17, 2012, Raleigh, NC, Organizers, Dewey McCafferty & Alex Deiters. \$750

2012 Telluride Workshop on Nucleic Acids Chemistry, July 30-August 3 2012, Telluride, CO, Organizer, Marc Greenberg. \$500

(6) Nominations and Awards, Presented by Nigel Richards

The secretary announced that the status of the Molecular BioSystems lectureship, sponsored with the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), was under review by Michael Smith at the RSC. He and his colleagues were unhappy about the time at which the lecture by Madan Babu had been scheduled (Wednesday morning of the meeting) and felt that most participants who would have attended the symposium had already left the meeting. It appears that there are no long-term plans for this lectureship to be given under the auspices of the DBC.

(7) Other Business, Presented by JoAnne Stubbe.

There was general discussion of changes that might be implemented on the DBC web site to make it more useful to members. These might include RSS feeds about DBC activities and elections. There was general agreement that portions of the information on the site needed to be updated or removed. In particular, it is clear that posting web site content needs to be performed more regularly by the DBC Secretary as part of his/her duties. It was agreed that these issues be discussed by the Secretary, Neil Kelleher and Paul Thomas who is responsible for managing the site.