



# American Chemical Society

## Division of Biological Chemistry

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### Minutes of the Spring 2013 Business Meeting of the Division of Biological Chemistry - Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 11:45 – 1:15 pm Palace Café, New Orleans

**Attended by:** Squire Booker, Michelle Chang, Sheila David, Stewart Fisher, Hung-wen Liu, Anna Mapp, Eugene Mueller, Nigel Richards, Nicole Sampson, Scott Silverman, James Stivers, Tom Wandless and Chris Whitman.

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#### **(1) Chair's Report presented by Hung-wen Liu**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all of the newly elected Division of Biological Chemistry (DBC) officers. He reiterated the need 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. Some success has been achieved in identifying people who hold executive positions at Lilly to ensure that funding is not disrupted. The Chair also presented more information on possible interactions with the PABMB. He also raised three other important matters. First, he was interested in increasing Division revenues through a dues increase for a number of reasons, including the need to fund more meetings in areas of interest. Second, he wished to complete work on the Division by-laws to define the role of the Advisory Committee more clearly. Third, he still recognized a need to increase the number of nominations for Division awards, and there was discussion of strategies by which this goal might be achieved. Finally, he congratulated Tom Wandless for his efforts in putting together an outstanding technical program at the New Orleans ACS National Meeting. Presentations at the student symposium had been excellent and many posters of high quality had been exhibited.

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

The minutes of the Fall 2012 business meeting were accepted. The secretary updated those present on new revisions to the BIOL by-laws, and disclosed that the nominating committee would prepare a slate of candidates for review one week prior to the Fall business meeting. This list would then be reviewed by BIOL officers attending this meeting, who would also be able to suggest additional nominees for the ballot. He also informed those present that the online election in November 2012 had again been run very smoothly by vote-now.com. There was also some discussion about the fact that the Division had been criticized because it had not developed a strategic plan. Although there was general agreement that the Division was functioning effectively, the possibility that this task might be undertaken by members of the Advisory Committee was raised. There was support for obtaining examples of such plans from other ACS Divisions.

#### **(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 Division continues to enjoy access to significant financial resources, and there was considerable discussion about possible increases in the amounts allocated for

Speaker reimbursements and to offset the costs of Awards Symposia. Funding sources for these increases were also reviewed with a consensus view that the Divisional fee might be raised from its present level of \$12.50 to \$15.00. It was resolved that an increase to \$3000 be implemented for a trial period of 2 years and that the Treasurer apply for an increase in Division dues.

#### **(4) ACS meeting issues presented by Tom Wandless.**

As chair of the Program Committee, Tom Wandless discussed the program for the 2013 Spring ACS National Meeting in New Orleans, LA. It was generally agreed the program had been strong, and that the poster sessions had been well-attended.

The Program Committee chair then updated the meeting about planning for the Spring ACS meeting, which will be held in Indianapolis in Fall 2013. The BIOL program will feature the Repligen, Pfizer and Lilly award symposia, the Biochemistry Hammes Lecture, which will be presented by Christopher Walsh, and a symposium honoring the contributions of Laura Kiessling, who will give the Murray Goodman Lecture. The program Chair emphasized the need for award winners to be announced by mid-August if speakers for the relevant symposia were to be assembled in a timely manner, and discussion followed concerning the current rules for selecting lecturers in addition to the award recipient.

#### **(5) Funding requests presented by Tom Wandless.**

Funding requests received prior to March 1, 2013 were reviewed by the officers and committee members present at the meeting. Support was provided for the following meetings:

7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Iron-Sulfur Cluster Biogenesis and Regulation, May 20-24, 2013, Columbia, SC, Organizer, Wayne Outten. \$500

Southeast Enzymes Conference, April 20, 2013, Atlanta, GA, Organizers, Holly Ellis & Giovanni Gadda. \$750

2013 Enzymes, Co-Enzymes and Metabolic Pathways GRC, July 14-19, 2013, Waterville Valley, NH, Organizers, Vahe Bandarian & Catherine Drennan. \$3000 as requested and a \$1000 supplementary award

9<sup>th</sup> International Retroviral Nucleocapsid Protein & Assembly Symposium, August 25-28, 2013, Montreal, Canada, Organizer, Karin Musier-Forsyth. \$500

Midwest Enzyme Chemistry Conference, October 13, 2013, Chicago, IL, Organizers, Audrey Lamb & Dali Liu. \$750 and a \$100 supplementary award

#### **(6) Other Business, Presented by Hung-wen Liu.**

Squire Booker announced that he was retiring as the Division MPPG representative. After discussion it was resolved that the Chair request that this position be assumed by Vahe Bandarian.