

British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee

(Hitherto the Working Party on Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry
of the Faraday Society)

The 3rd meeting was held at 6 Gray's Inn Square, W.C.1, on Wednesday
4th May 1960 at 2.50 p.m.

Present: Professor J.A.V. Butler (Chairman)
Mr. A.P. Huxley
Professor R.D. Preston
Dr. J.W.S. Pringle (representing Professor C.F.A. Pantin)
Professor J.T. Randall
Professor F.J.W. Roughton
Dr. G.B.E.M. Sutherland
Dr. P.M.B. Walker (representing Professor M. Swann)
Dr. J.C. Kendrew (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Professor D.D. Klay and Dr. L. E. Gray.

1. The Chairman reported that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Working Party had been considered by the Council of the Faraday Society, and that the Council had approved of the plans of the Working Party to found an independent Society.
2. Title of the Society. After various suggestions had been discussed, including that contained in a letter from Dr. Gray appended to these minutes, it was agreed that the title of the new Society should be The British Biophysical Society, rather than that proposed in minute 4 of the last meeting. It was also decided that there should be no explanatory subheading; a paragraph explaining the aims of the new Society should, however, be included in the public announcement of its formation.
3. Constitution of the Society. The committee considered the draft proposals made by Mr. Huxley and Dr. Kendrew (appended).

Professor Roughton reported the views of the Committee and Annual General Meeting of the Physiological Society, whose attention had been drawn to the committee's proposals to found a new Society. He said that the Physiological Society would warmly welcome the Biophysical Society, and that it had made the following suggestions:

- (1) that from time to time meetings of the two societies should be arranged to take place on adjacent days and in the same place.
- (2) that the Biophysical Society should consider the question of representation on its committee of the Physiological Society and other societies in related fields.

It was agreed that in the first instance there should be no official representation of other Societies on the Committee; it was thought that in fact the Committee would always include one or more members who could unofficially represent the views of these Societies. With this in mind the Steering Committee thought that the Committee of the new Society should consist of the Officers and nine ordinary members, rather than the six proposed by Mr. Huxley and Dr. Kendrew. It was also agreed that the draft proposals should be modified in the following respects:

- (1) The Officers should not be eligible to serve longer than five years.
- (2) The committee should elect a chairman to preside at its meetings, and the chairman might serve for up to two years.

The Secretary was instructed to draft a revised version of the rules of the Society.

4. Scientific Meetings. It was agreed that the first meeting of the Society should take place in December 1960 or January 1961 at King's College, London. Professor Randall kindly offered to act as host.

It was agreed that the meeting should last for two days, and should consist of two symposia of half a day each, one of which should be on a topic relating to work taking place in Professor Randall's laboratory, while the other should be on some other topic. The other two half-days would be occupied by contributed short papers, a select list of topics being provided for the guidance of contributors.

The Committee elected a subcommittee to prepare the detailed arrangements, the subcommittee to consist of Professor Butler, Professor Randall, Mr. Huxley, Dr. Kendrew and a local secretary to be appointed by Professor Randall.

5. Finance. The Chairman reported that the Faraday Society might perhaps be willing to make a capital grant to the new society. The committee asked the Chairman to discuss this in detail with the Council of the Faraday Society.

The Secretary was asked to bring forward proposals concerning the annual subscription at the next meeting of the Committee.

6. Relations with other Societies. The Chairman reported that the Secretary of the Faraday Society had asked him to draft a letter to be sent to those Societies which had previously nominated members of the Colloid and Biophysics Committee of the Faraday Society, informing them that this Committee was now wound up and that its responsibilities would be assumed by the new Society. The Chairman's letter to the Secretary of the Faraday Society, enclosing this draft, is appended to these minutes.

7. International Biophysics Meeting in Amsterdam, July 1960. The Chairman gave an account of the arrangements for this meeting, the purpose of which is to plan an international biophysics conference to take place in Stockholm in the summer of 1961. It was agreed that the representatives of the Committee at the Amsterdam meeting should be Professor Butler and Dr. Sutherland.

8. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee should take place on Thursday 26th July at 2.30 p.m. in the rooms of the Faraday Society.



C O P Y

British Empire Cancer Campaign
Research Unit in Radiobiology

Director:
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B.E.C.C. Research Fellow

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Northwood,
Middlesex.

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1st March, 1960.

Professor J.A.V. Butler,
Chester Beatty Research Institute,
Pulham Road,
London, S.W.3.

Dear Butler,

Your Report of the Working Party on Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry seems to sum up our discussions admirably.

In connection with the proposed name of the Society I would like to suggest an amendment of the sub-heading to "A society of those concerned with the investigation of biological systems by physical and chemical means." I suggest this amendment because it seems to me that a Society essentially exists to facilitate communication between persons having a common interest rather than for the application of a scientific concept. I formed this opinion rather strongly as I listened to the discussions on the question of the name of the new Society, but could not crystallise my ideas in time to put them before the meeting. If the matter is still open for debate perhaps you could bring up my proposed amendment at the appropriate time.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) L. H. GRAY

P.S. This might be abbreviated to "For those concerned with ..."

Proposals for the Organization of the Biophysical Society

We have not thought it appropriate to do more at this stage than suggest the barest outline of an organization. The details of the constitution can be worked out when the main lines have been agreed.

1. There should be a Committee consisting of the Officers and six Ordinary Members.
2. The Officers should consist of an Honorary Treasurer and two Honorary Secretaries (one of whom would be responsible for organizing scientific meetings, and the second for other matters). They should retire each year, but be eligible for re-election. The Officers should be nominated by the Committee and submitted for election at an Annual General Meeting.
3. The Ordinary Members should normally serve for three years, a rotation being arranged such that two Ordinary Members retire each year. Nominations to vacancies, for election at the Annual General Meeting, should be made by the Committee or by Members.
4. The Committee should from time to time elect one of its members to take the chair at its meetings.
5. The Working Party should consider the question of representation on the Committee of other societies such as the Physiological Society, Biochemical Society, and Society for Experimental Biology.
6. In the above scheme it is assumed that at any rate for the present the Society will not publish a journal.
7. We suggest that the Working Party should arrange several scientific meetings during the next year or so, and that the members should be asked to discuss and ratify a constitution, and to elect the Society's first Committee, at one of these meetings (probably not the first).

A.F.H.

23.4.60

J.C.K.

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6th May, 1960.

Professor F. C. Tompkins, F.R.S.,
The Faraday Society,
6 Gray's Inn Square,
London W.C.1.

Dear Tompkins,

You asked me to draft a letter to be sent to the societies which appointed representatives to the Colloid and Biophysical Committee. I append a draft which has had the approval of the Steering Committee.

Dear Sir,

Your society has for some considerable time appointed a representative to the Colloid Committee, later the Colloid and Biophysics Committee of this Society. This Committee has advised Council concerning its Discussions and has also arranged a considerable number of informal discussions, especially in the fields of biophysics and of biophysical chemistry. These activities became so extensive that Council found it necessary to review the position and appointed a Working Party to make recommendations for the future.

The Working Party has recommended the formation of a new society, to be called the British Biophysical Society, to undertake the activities of the biophysical section of the Colloid and Biophysics Society.

Council has accepted the recommendation and the Colloid and Biophysics Committee will, therefore, be discontinued. You may expect to have a formal announcement of the formation of the new society during the next few months, in the meantime enquiries may be made to the Secretary of the Steering Committee for the Formation of the New Society: Dr. J. C. Kendrew, F.R.S., Peterhouse, Cambridge.

Council would like to thank you for the help your representatives have given over a long period.

Yours etc."

Yours sincerely,

J. A. V. BUTLER