

British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 104th Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 4th January 1994 at 1.00 p.m. at the Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place, London.

Present: P.M. Bayley, K.R. Fox, S.E. Harding, L. Hounsell, D.J.S. Hulmes, W.N. Hunter, A.C.T. North, G.C.K. Roberts (Chairman), J. Thornton.

The Chairman welcomed LH and DJSH to their first Committee meeting. The first item for discussion was the proposal by Dr. M. Weir (GLAXO) for a discussion meeting. This is reported below.

Apologies for absence: D.W.L. Hukins, W.A. Thomas, G. Kneale, R. Leatherbarrow, G. Moore, A.R. Rees, M.S.P. Sansom.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Matters arising:

With regard to Hon. Sec's report (2). The publishing editor of Biophysical Chemistry has not responded to the suggestion of advertising in the BBS newsletter.

Honorary Secretary's Report: Presented by WNH.

(1) The 1994 AGM was held on the 20th of December at the Windeyer Centre, University College London.

(2) The Higher Education Funding Council for England has written with respect to the 1996 research assessment exercise. The HEFC is soliciting names together with subject listings for inclusion on the assessment panels. Concerns were expressed at the way in which biophysics would be considered due to the multidisciplinary nature of biophysical research and the spread of Department types in which it is to be found.

After discussion it was concluded that a reply to HEFC should voice concerns on this matter. The Committee would nominate D. Blow, I. Campbell, J. Feeney, L. Johnson, A. Rees, D. Rice and G. Roberts to the HEFC. Comment that our opinion had been solicited and of our response would be included in the next newsletter. Action: WNH/GCKR

(3) The Institute of Biology directory of affiliated societies has been provided for members of the Committee.

Honorary Treasurer's Report: Communicated by JT.

(1) The accounts have been submitted for the annual auditing and we await Grant-Thornton's report.

Honorary Meeting Secretary's Report: Presented by SEH.

(1) Oligosaccharides, 19-20th December, London, 1994. Joint with the Molecular Graphics Society.

LH presented a report on the meeting. Accounts to be presented shortly. The organisers were thanked for their efforts in organising a successful meeting.

(2) BBS Discussion meeting Protein Structures and Signals 9th January, Department of Chemistry, University of Chemistry.
Organised by WNH.

A request for £150 to cover speakers expenses was granted.

(3) Mechanical properties of macromolecules and tissues, April 18-19, 1995, Aberdeen. Joint with the Faraday Biophysics subgroup.

The dates of this meeting have had to be altered. There is concern at the late stage at which this has been done. Further details need to be obtained from either D. Hukins or L. Fisher about this meeting. SEH and GCKR will liaise and contact the organisers. If a satisfactory response is not forthcoming the Society will withdraw its support for this meeting.

(4) Molecular Recognition and Signalling, December 19-21, 1996 Bath. This will be held in conjunction with the Swedish Biophysical Society, ARR will visit Sweden in January to have further discussions with Prof. Nilson. Ideas about Swedish speakers at the meeting were discussed. A finalised budget is awaited. This is particularly relevant to decisions about the student bursaries for attendance at the meeting.

(5) ISMAR satellite meeting, Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics, Sydney, Australia. Joint UK/Australian Biophysical Societies. Details of this meeting including a program were presented. Ideas for speakers were being solicited. A request for £500 to support travel to this meeting was granted.

(6) Joint UK/Australian Biophysical Society's meeting on Membrane Structure and Dynamics. Satellite meeting of the IUPAB congress, July 1996, Oxford. Prof A. Watts has put forward some ideas about this meeting and further discussion with those involved in the organisation are planned. A question about whether or not Congress approval was required arose but nobody knew the answer to this.

(7) A discussion took place about future meetings.

Dr Malcolm Weir (GLAXO) presented the idea of a BBS Discussion meeting to be held at the new GLAXO Stevenage site possibly in September. This would form part of the GLAXO launch of the new laboratories. The theme would be membrane proteins. This suggestion was warmly received. Prof. G. Dodson and Dr R. Henderson would be asked to help organise the meeting. Dr Weir and SEH would correspond about the organisation of this meeting.

A suggestion for a BBS Discussion meeting has been received from Dr C. Holt. The suggested title is "Structure Function Relationships in Rheomorphic proteins". SEH will solicit a full proposal from Dr Holt.

Prof G. Blackburn (Chairman of the Biochemical Soc. Nucleic Acids Group) has written with the suggestion for a joint meeting in December 1996 probably in London. A possible subject put forward by the committee was enzymes that interact with or process nucleic acids. KF and SEH will contact the Nucleic Acids group secretary, Dr Jones for further discussion.

PB mentioned that a meeting on modern optical spectroscopy and time resolved aspects might be appropriate. LH and PB will draft some ideas for the next Committee meeting. JT put forward the possibility of a joint meeting with the Collaborative Computing Project Group 11 on "Making the most of your amino acid sequence". Dr G. Barton might be an organiser. JT will pursue some ideas and might be able to report in May.

Membership details: PMB

A request was made for the BBS membership to be available to all members. This might take the form of a booklet or a computerised database. Action-WNH.

AOB

- (1) PMB mentioned that at the earliest, a joint meeting with EBSA would be 1997.
 - (2) The date of the next Committee meeting is Tuesday 16th May, at 1.0 p.m. at the Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place, London.
- Addendum, the next meeting is rescheduled for Thursday 11th MAY, 1995 at 1.0 p.m. at the Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place, London

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the 101st Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 4th January 1994 at 1.00 p.m. at the Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place.

Present: K.Fox, D.Hukins, R.Leachbarrow, G.Moore, G.Roberts, M.Sansom, J.Thornton, A. Rees, A. North, S. Harding

Apologies for absence: W. Hunter, P. Bayley, L. Fisher

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Matters arising:-

- (1) ACTN reported that he has written to the Institute of Physics with respect to his resignation. There was discussion of possible alternative representatives for the IOP.
- (2) The Biophysical Chemistry subgroup of the Faraday Division of the RSC was discussed.

Honorary Secretary's Report.

- (1) It was agreed that a charge should be made for inclusion of details of a special issue of Faraday Transactions in the BBS newsletter.
- (2) A letter has been received from the British Joint Committee for Electron Microscopy concerning bursaries for attendance at the International Congress on Electron Microscopy next July in Paris. It was agreed that the BBS could support three such bursaries at £250 each.
- (3) Affiliation of the BBS with the Institute of Biology was discussed. It was decided to investigate the benefits of continued membership and to review before next September.

Honorary Treasurer's Report

It was reported that the handover to the new Honorary Treasurer (RL) was underway.

Honorary Meeting Secretary's Report

A detailed written report was tabled, and is appended to the minutes.

- 1) *December 1993.* DNA Structure and Recognition: 40 years on. 17th December. Organised by Julia Goodfellow and Stephen Neidle. Venue: Wellcome Trust, London.
This was reported to be a well organised and enjoyable meeting.
- 2) *January 1994.* Biological Mechanisms from Crystal Structures, 5 January, NIMR, organised by Peter Turner. Arrangements were well advanced. The BBS contribution had been fixed at £500. A full report will be presented at the next meeting.
- 3) *April 1994.* Structure and Function of Ion Channels, David Ogden & Mark Sansom, Liverpool. 14-15 April. A joint meeting with the ion channels group of the Physiological Society. Arrangements were underway. A budget would be sent to the Honorary Meeting Secretary as soon as possible.
- 4) *December 1994* Oligosaccharides, 19-20 December 1994

organised by Steve Homans and Liz Hounsell. This would be coorganised with the Molecular Graphics Society. A draft budget and programme were presented. There was discussion of how to reduce costs.

- 5) A one day meeting on *FTIR spectroscopy of biomolecules* had been proposed by Professor Dennis Chapman and Dr P. Haris. Early January 1995 was suggested as a possible time. A tentative list of speakers was tabled.
- 6) A joint meeting with the Biophysical Chemistry subgroup of the Faraday Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry was discussed for Easter 1995, on *Mechanical properties of macromolecules and tissues*. DWLH agreed to write to the Faraday Division concerning this.
- 7) *Future Meetings*.
 - (i) A possible joint meeting with the Australian Biophysical Society was further discussed. GCKR will write again to the Secretary of the Australian Biophysical Society concerning this.
 - (ii) Possible topics for the Dec 1995 meeting were discussed. JT and ARR agreed to explore the possibility of a meeting on protein structure, molecular recognition and signalling and to report back to the committee on this.

New Committee Members.

- 1) KF and DH had kindly agreed to be co-opted for 1 year.
- 2) Three further vacancies on the committee were discussed. GCKR agreed to contact possible new members and to find out whether they would be willing to be coopted in advance of the next AGM.

IUPAB

ACTN presented the need for nominations for the 6 IUPAB commissions. Suggestions were discussed and GCKR agreed to contact them and pass nominations onto the Royal Society.

Date of the Next Meeting: Wednesday, 11th May 1994, Biochemical Society.