

British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 106th Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 4th October 1995 at 1.00 p.m. at the Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place, London.

Present: M. Ferenczi, S.E. Harding, L. Hounsell, D.W.L. Hukins, W.N. Hunter, R. Leatherbarrow, A. R. Rees, G.C.K. Roberts (Chairman), W.A. Thomas.

T. K. Attwood also present for discussions.

Apologies for absence: P. M. Bayley, K.R. Fox, G. Kneale, D.J.S. Hulmes, G. Moore, P. Murray-Rust, A.C.T. North, M. Sansom, J. Thornton.

Minutes of the previous Committee meeting were accepted.

Matters arising:

(1) Copies of the Societies rules have been located thanks to G GK, ACTN and H. Rattle. These are now available from WNH.

Honorary Secretary's Report: Presented by WNH.

(1) The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFC) has provided lists of subject panels and membership of the panels for the 1996 research assessment exercise. We had previously been asked for our recommendations as to who might be appropriate to represent biophysics interests. With one exception our suggestions have been ignored. Concern was expressed about panel membership in particular the panels covering Biological Sciences and Chemistry. It was decided that GCKR and WNH will write to HEFC and reiterate our concerns about the assessment of biophysics.

(2) PMB has written updating the committee with developments involving the European Biophysical Societies Association (EBSA) and the European Biophysics Journal. A specific request for financial support to promote planning of the 1997 Congress was made. After some discussion, in particular on the organisation of the finances, the committee agreed that \$1000 could be provided. However, this support would be dependent on guarantees from EBSA as to involvement of BBS in the programme committee of the congress, accountability for funds and an undertaking that any profit from the 1997 European Biophysics Congress would be used to support EBSA activities in future.

(3) PMB is employing a secretary to assist with EBSA and EBJ matters. He enquires whether the BBS would be able to make use of this secretary. Alternatively it may be possible to make use of the Biochemical Societies facilities for secretarial help. It was decided that RL, SEH and WNH will list duties which might be taken on by a secretary to assess what time period might be appropriate and hence what funds might be needed to cover these costs. WNH to coordinate.

(4) Dr Pauline Bennett (BBS representative on the British Joint Committee for Electron Microscopy, BJCEM) has written with details about that societies future plans which involve employing a secretariat. BJCEM seek approval of the BBS (as an affiliated society) for approval of these plans. It was decided to support the new developments at BJCEM. WNH will respond.

(5) ACTN has passed on a letter from the Royal Society enquiring if we wish to nominate any candidates for election to the Officers and National Scientific Representations on the General Committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions. Committee decided to consult with ACTN on this matter. Action WNH.

(6) Mr M.B Avison, the co-ordinator of the student biochemical society at the University of Bristol had applied for £60 in support of a lecture by Dr Rider from

the Royal Holloway on the topic of AIDS research. This was agreed although there was uncertainty about the biophysical content of the planned lecture. WNH will write to Mr Avison and to the Head of Department at Bristol with advice about future applications for lecture grants.

(7) P. Murray-Rust and G. Moore have tendered their resignations from the BBS committee. WNH will write accepting. In the case of G. Moore as IBDG representative we will request that he organise a replacement. A query arose about committee membership since M. Sansom had inadvertently been left off the list in an earlier newsletter. WNH will contact him. New members will be required for the committee and several names were put forward. GCKR will contact these individuals. It was also reiterated that GCKR will stand down as chairman this year and at the next committee meeting a new chairman will need to be identified.

(8) The BBS AGM will take place in Bath on Thursday 21st December during the meeting "The Structural Basis for Molecular Recognition and Signalling". It will be held before the last session, at 1:45 pm in Building 8 west, University of Bath. Notification to members will be in the next newsletter.

Honorary Treasurer's Report: Presented by RL.

(1) We have renewed our data protection registration.

(2) The Exchequer stock (£5886.62) has matured and been transferred to our National Savings account.

(3) The bond with Bristol City Council has matured and been renewed for another 5 years.

(4) There are 366 individuals who, though registered as BBS members, do not pay fees. Letters will be sent to the defaulters to see who wishes to remain in the membership.

Honorary Meeting Secretary's Report: Presented by SEH.

(1) BBS Discussion meeting " Biophysical Studies on Membrane Protein Structure" Organised by Dr Malcolm Weir (GLAXO, Stevenage) 29th September 1995. A very successful meeting was held at the new GLAXO site.

(2) "The structural basis for molecular recognition and signalling.", December 19-21, 1996 Bath.

Organisation now essentially complete, just waiting for the registrations to arrive.

(3) BBS/CCP11 Discussion meeting, "Getting the most out of your sequence." Possible February 1996.

T.K. Attwood outlined plans for the meeting. £200 was awarded towards the meeting.

(4) "Membrane structure and function", August 1996 Oxford. Joint with the Australian Biophysical Society. A. Watts is organising this.

(5) "4th UK analytical ultracentrifuge users group." Leicester, March 1996 Organised by O. Byron. More details are requested but £200 provisionally awarded..

(6) "Current methods to characterise biomolecular interactions." Organised by RL, December 1996. A proposal has been put forward and £200 awarded.

(7) Joint meeting with the Biochemical Society Nucleic Acids group. December 1997 organised by KF and A. Jones.

(8) A protein-nmr discussion meeting to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the nmr centre at the University of Leicester was put forward by GCKR. Support has been gained from the RSC NMR group. This could be held over 2 days in April 1996. Support agreed to a sum of £500.

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(1) GCKR reported further discussions with the Biochemical Society. The possibility of forming a joint group with the Biochemical society along the lines of the Protein and Peptide group (a BC/RSC venture) was mooted. A more popular idea that emerged is to create a Biophysics forum in which all societies with biophysical interests such as the RSC, Biochemical Society, BCA etc would interact to hold joint meetings, and exchange information for example. WNH will draw up a list of societies who might be party to such a form.

(4) The date of the next Committee meeting is Tuesday 9th January, at 1.0 p.m. at the Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place, London.