

British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 107th Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 9th January 1996 at 1.00 p.m. at the Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place, London.

Present: P. M. Bayley, R. Cooke, M. Ferenczi, S.E. Harding, L. Hounsell, D.W.L. Hukins, D.J.S. Hulmes, W.N. Hunter, R. Leatherbarrow, J. Molloy, A.C.T. North, G.C.K. Roberts, W.A. Thomas, J. Thornton

Election of Chairman:

J. Thornton was proposed by GCKR, seconded by WNH. There were no other proposals and JT was thus elected to chair the BBS committee meetings for the year.

New members, Dr's Molloy and Cooke were welcomed to the committee.

Apologies for absence: K.R. Fox, M. Sansom

Minutes of the previous Committee meeting were accepted.

Matters arising:

(1) Hon. Sec's report item (5) There was some discussion concerning nominations for election to the Officers and National Scientific Representations on the General Committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions. ACTN has advised that no action on our part is necessary.

(2) Hon. Sec's report item (3) regarding secretarial assistance and points raised by PB in correspondence. The officers have considered which duties might be appropriate to pass over to a secretary. Once again the pro's and con's of organising and paying for secretarial help were covered and options discussed. It was decided to have a trial period of 1 year where such an arrangement will be tried. A sum of £1,000 was to be used for this purpose. Action WNH.

Honorary Secretary's Report: Presented by WNH.

(1) ACTN has raised a query about Royal Society bursaries to assist individuals to attend the XII International Biophysics Congress in Amsterdam. WNH will contact the Royal Society to find out how this scheme is generally organised. The BBS will contribute £500 to bursaries for the meeting and will advertise this in the next newsletter. In addition WNH asked committee members to notify appropriate individuals about these BBS bursaries.

(2) The Royal Society have forwarded an IUPAB circular with a call for nominations for officers and Members of Council of IUPAB and for any comments on the agenda for the 13th General Assembly. ACTN advised that since he was Secretary-General he could be considered as sufficient British representation and it might not be necessary to nominate anyone else. The Committee agreed. No comments on the agenda were forthcoming.

(3) Correspondence from Dr F Parak (EBSA Secretary) was circulated. Dr Parak details developments with the European Biophysics Journal and with EBSA. In particular the plans to hold the 1st EBSA Biophysics Congress in 1997 in Orleans. Much of the information in his letter is appropriate for distribution to BBS members and PB has agreed to write something for the next newsletter summarising EBSA and EBJ developments.

(4) Committee Membership: It was pointed out that we need an IBDG representative to replace Prof. G. Moore. ACTN no longer wishes to be the Institute of Physics representative and has informed IOP of this. Despite his promptings and suggestions from WNH, IOP has not identified a replacement. Since DWLH is both on the Committee and a member of IOP it was decided to contact

them and put him forward as a suitable representative. The lack of interaction with IOP was discussed. It was put forward that reciprocal advertising as practised with the Biochemical Society might serve to promote more interactions. Action WNH on both counts.

DJSH is in the process of relocating to Lyon but will continue as a Committee member.

Honorary Treasurer's Report: Presented by RL.

(1) The AGM approved the increase in BBS membership fees. This will take effect from Jan 1997.

(2) Detailed accounts were almost ready and should be available at the next meeting.

Honorary Meeting Secretary's Report: Presented by SEH.

(1) "The structural basis for molecular recognition and signalling.", December 19-21, 1996 Bath. A highly successful and enjoyable meeting, we await a report.

(2) BBS/CCP11 Discussion meeting, "Getting the most out of your sequence." 11th March 1996 at the Wellcome Trust. £200 was previously awarded towards the meeting, further details were presented and the matter is in hand.

(3) "4th UK analytical ultracentrifuge users group." Leicester, 25-26th March 1996 Organised by O. Byron. £200 provisionally awarded. Further details presented and everything looks in order.

(4) "NMR of proteins and their interactions" Organised by GCKR who tabled a report. Leicester 1-2 April 1996. Most speakers have accepted. Registration costs are set at £30 and £15 for students. Advertising will be in the next newsletter. Support has been agreed to a sum of £500.

(5) "Membrane structure and function", 18-21 August 1996 Oxford. Joint with the Australian Biophysical Society. A. Watts is organising this. Some more information is to be requested such as the precise venue and registration costs. This is particularly important for advertising purposes. £500 has been put towards this meeting.

(6) "Current methods to characterise biomolecular interactions." Organised by RL and Dr W. Ward (Zeneca) and to be held at Imperial College on 16th December 1996. A sum of £200 has been awarded. RL presented further details.

(7) Joint meeting with the Biochemical Society Nucleic Acids group. December 1997 organised by KF and A. Jones (Liverpool). It is hoped that KF can give some information on this meeting at the next Committee meeting.

(8) DJSH tabled a proposal for a meeting on "The theoretical basis of biological assembly and organisation". Some difficulties could arise due to relocation to Lyon. If a UK co-organiser could be identified it would help. Dr A. Brass (Manchester) was mentioned. Action DJSH.

(9) The possibilities for further meetings and possible organisers were discussed. Subjects that were put forward included:
Modern optical microscopy, molecular modelling, novel applications of mass spectroscopy, muscle-molecular motors, combinatorial libraries, cell adhesion, cell-cell interactions and virus assembly.

JM will give some thought to the idea of muscle and molecular motors. Sheena Radford (Leeds) and Claire Stevenson (Oxford) would be approached about a mass spec. meeting. Action RC.

Carol Robinson

PB also asked committee members to consider topics and presenters/organisers for BBS participation in the 1st EBSA Congress. The idea being that a BBS session might be held. J. Goodfellow was mentioned as a possible organiser for something here and JT would discuss this with her. Any other ideas to be sent to PB within the next 6 to 8 weeks.

(9) Up-to-date notes for organisers were provided for Committee members.

AOB

(1) GCKR reported on correspondence from the Biochemical Society concerning the role of the Institute of Biology in representing societies with interests in biological sciences. A meeting of these societies has been called for the 22nd of Jan and GCKR will attend to obtain more details.

(2) SH mentioned that he intended to cease being Meetings Secretary at the end of this year. This and other vacancies on the Committee will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

(3) The date of the next Committee meeting is Tuesday 14th May, at 1.0 p.m. at the Biochemical Society, 59 Portland Place, London.