

**Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting of the British Biophysical Society  
held on 11 May 1999 at the Biochemical Society**

**Present:** R Cooke, M Ferenczi, E Hounsell, R Leatherbarrow, M Miles, J Murray-Rust, A North, S Radford, A Thomson, A Wilkinson

**1 Apologies for absence**

G Grant, J Helliwell, D Hornby, A Lane, J Molloy, A Rees, G Roberts, M Sansom, M Sternberg, A Watts

**2 Presentation from the Institute of Biology**

Fiona Wilson (Head of Membership and Recruitment) described the role of the IOB in coordinating UK biological societies. Founded in 1950, it was amalgamated with the Biological Council in 1991, and now functioned as a professional body, not a learned society. The institute represents members, serves their professional needs and enhances status, promotes biological sciences and fosters public understanding of biology. It also sets and maintains high standards of professional competence and conduct. The institute grants professional not technical qualifications. People apply for these, and may sometimes be declined or awarded a lower level. There are 12,000-12,500 members, which represents about one third of the potential. Approximately 5% are from overseas.

The Institute sees itself as the voice of biology, responding to requests from government, industry and other bodies. It advises on matters relating to education, science and the practice of biology. It cooperates with affiliated societies to make assessments and unifies biology by coordinating the views of different disciplines. Typical consultations have been science and education policy, bioethics and the environment. There are 78 affiliated societies. Members pay fees of £70 per annum (£12 for students).

It was acknowledged that the IOB has traditionally been more reactive than proactive in voicing the opinions of the biology profession to the general public. The proactive role of the UKLSC in this respect was also recognised.

**3 Minutes of previous meeting**

Under item 5 (Honorary Secretary's report) the proposal to organise a meeting at Unilever came from Walter Gibson not Andrew Gibson.

With this correction the minutes were approved.

#### **4 Matters arising**

**Item 4:** Judith Murray-Rust presented a list of costed options for promoting the BBS. It was decided that pens represented the most cost effective means. These should be inscribed with the motto “British Biophysical Society - Building Better Science” and could be distributed with a future newsletter.

**(action J Murray-Rust)**

Nature had been approached and wouldn't allow their editorial to be mounted on the BBS website.

A two page summary of Biophysics career opportunities in industry and academia would be prepared for inclusion with careers packs.

**(action R Cooke and J Murray-Rust)**

A new, independent web site for the BBS would be established.

**(action J Murray-Rust)**

The possibility of having BBS posters included with the physics journal would be investigated.

**(action A Thomson)**

The poster would also be sent to EBSA affiliated societies.

**(action J Murray-Rust)**

Judith Murray-Rust was thanked by the committee for all her efforts in promoting the BBS.

Tony Rees had suggested that Gary Taylor would be a suitable replacement for himself on the BBS committee. It was agreed that Gary Taylor should be asked to join the committee.

**(action R Cooke)**

**Item 5:** The proposed meeting at Unilever had been progressed by Tony Watts and Mark Sansom, but illness forced a meeting with Walter Gibson to be postponed until June 1.

**Item 6:** John Helliwell had been asked to be the chief BBS delegate at the forthcoming IUPAB congress. Two further delegates are required. Peter Bayley, Derek Woolfson, Neil Isaacs, Louise Johnson and David Moss were suggested as appropriate representatives. These individuals would be approached.

**(action A North)**

#### **5 Honorary Secretary's report (presented by Rob Cooke)**

It was agreed to offer Angel Torres £250 to attend the IUPAB congress.

## **6 Adherence to IUPAB**

The agreement by which the BBS accepted adherence to IUPAB from the Royal Society was discussed. IUPAB now needs a declaration of adherence, a statement of history and a copy of the rules from the BBS.

**(action A North, A Thomson, R Cooke)**

## **7 Honorary Treasurer's Report** (presented by Tony Wilkinson)

Despite considerable difficulties, accounts had been obtained for the year to the end of June 1998. It was moved by A North that the accounts be accepted.

The BBS currently has 343 paying members, of which 327 pay by standing order. A large number of these however are not paying the full amount (most are paying £9 rather than £15). It was also noted that several people had joined for one year, probably via registration for a meeting, but had not renewed their subscriptions. Letters to under-subscribing and lapsed members would be drafted and circulated to the officers before sending out.

**(action A Wilkinson)**

The question of what to do with the significant credit balance was discussed. It was decided to use this to support meetings more strongly and the BBS would offer to design and print posters for meetings if required by organisers.

The question of whether there were legal restrictions on the names of BBS members being distributed to others or available electronically would be investigated.

**(action R Leatherbarrow)**

## **8 Irish Subsection**

Andrew Thomson would now be visiting three centres on his trip to Ireland: Dublin, Galway and Belfast. The question of how the trip was funded would be clarified.

**(action A Thomson and G Grant)**

## **9 Honorary Meetings Secretary's Report** (presented by Liz Hounsell)

Two meetings had been successfully organised by Justin Molloy and Geoff Kneale. Reports and accounts are expected soon.

The "Biomolecular Folding and Assembly" meeting in April was attended by Liz Hounsell, who used the opportunity to promote the BBS.

Arrangements for the "Biophysics - Past and Future" meeting in December are well under way. The organisers will be contacted with an offer to make a poster.

**(action E Hounsell)**

William Delgrado had been selected to be the BBS sponsored lecturer at the Biochemical Society meeting in Leeds in April 2000. Possibilities for promoting the BBS via the Biochemical Society would be investigated.

**(action S Radford and J Murray-Rust)**

Arrangements for the "Emerging Techniques" meeting at UEA in April 2000 need to be progressed.

**(action A Thomson)**

## **10 Any other business**

Peter Bayley will be resigning as managing editor of EBJ. A replacement is being sort.

An agreement giving BBS members a discount to Annual Reviews has lapsed.

Mervyn Miles would be suggested as BBS rep for the IOP.

**(action A Thomson)**

The role of Len Fischer on the BBS committee would be clarified.

**(action Mervyn Miles)**

## **11 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday September 15th**